DETROIT
METRO TIMES
VOL. 46 | ISSUE 02 | NOVEMBER 12-25, 2025

JINGLE & MINGLES

Ferndale's Holiday Market

Underground Holiday Market

Nov. 15-16

Under the Ferndale Parking Structure

Gifts to wear,

<< Woods, Moore, Chaney

Gifts to share.

^ Braker, Johnson>,

100 Makers

Gifts to Eat,

<< Priest, Hribal

Gift a seat.

>> Allen

Lots of Bakers

Made by hand, or 3d scanned.

Hang it up, or for your pup.

<< Hamilton

>> Zeldes

>> Prapahar

Didia >>

<< Popowiecki

^^ LaPratt

^^ Pendleton >> Harrison

>> Olegario

Ellis >>

^^ Cieplechowicz

FerndaleUnderground.com

Northern Lights Lounge

OPEN FOR LUNCH 11AM
DINNER TIL 9PM
HAPPY HOUR TU-F 3-6PM
FREE TABLE SHUFFLEBOARD

660 W. BALTIMORE
IN DETROIT'S HISTORIC
NEW CENTER

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11
SEAN BLACKMAN'S IN TRANSIT
No Cover / 7-10pm / 21+

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12
DJ DEZ ANDRÉS presents THE FUNCTION
10pm / 21+ / Occasional Special Guests

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13
ELIXIR
JOHN RYAN - GEO
No Cover / 8-12am / 21+

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14
LOWER REGIONS
TODD MODES - RYAN SPENCER
No Cover / 9pm / 21+

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15
TBD

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18
SEAN BLACKMAN'S IN TRANSIT
No Cover / 7-10pm / 21+

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19
DJ DEZ ANDRÉS presents THE FUNCTION
10pm / 21+ / Occasional Special Guests

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20
ELIXIR
JOHN RYAN - GEO
No Cover / 8-12am / 21+

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21
NEW MONTHLY
BOUNCE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PRESENTS
-CHEZ DAMIER-
MIKE "AGENT X" CLARK - ATM - AMEERA - BILLY WINTERS
Tickets on RA / 9pm-LATE / 21+

northernlightslounge.com

Dance @ Detroit Opera

SAT / NOV 15 / 7:30PM
SUN / NOV 16 / 2:30PM
DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

Dance Theatre of Harlem is a Detroit favorite returning to the Detroit Opera House after their 2023 performances. Arthur Mitchell created the company in New York City after making history in 1955 as the first black principal dancer at New York City Ballet. He was also the famed protégé of George Balanchine, the "Father of American Ballet." This performance will include a first look of ***Firebird*** by John Taras, a DTH signature classic, first created in 1982, being performed for the first time in over 20 years. Pieces created by Jodie Gates, Robert Garland, and other iconic works will also be featured in the program.

Presented by Gilbert Family Foundation

Photo courtesy of Dance Theatre of Harlem / Nir Arieli

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Tickets start at only $30

DETROITOPERA.ORG
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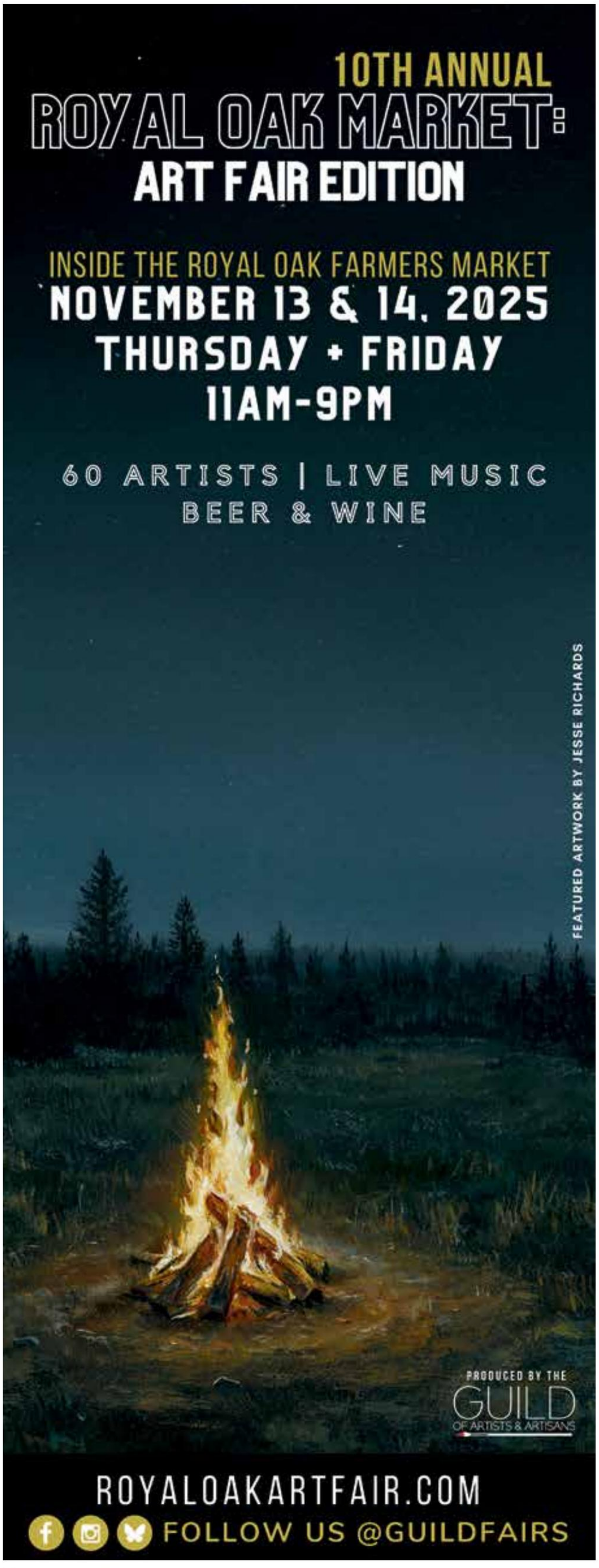

DETROIT
METRO TIMES

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Artwork courtesy of Motor City Comic Con

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2025 METRO TIMES *Best of* DETROIT

WINNER

VOTED #1 LAW FIRM

TRIAL ATTORNEYS BUILT THE FIEGER WAY

ALL WE DO IS WIN

FIEGERLAW

BOWLERO Lanes & Lounge

NOVEMBER NO COVER EVENTS

BOWLERO LANES & LOUNGE PRESENTS

ANGIE HARTLEY

WSG

SEA CHANGES

DJ RYAN GIMPERT

SAT NOVEMBER 15 • 9PM • NO COVER • 18+

BOWLERO Lanes & Lounge

rock steady

UN-DRESSED TO KILL

AN UNMASKED TRIBUTE TO KISSTORY

PERFORMING THE MONUMENTAL 'ALIVE!' ALBUM IN IT'S ENTIRETY!

NOVEMBER 21, 2025
9PM

BOWLERO Lanes & Lounge

THE REEFERMEN

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28 ★ ★ 9PM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EASTSIDE STILL ALIVE

LIVE BAND KARAOKE

DJ KILLA K IN THE LANES

SATURDAY NOV 29 ~~~~ 9PM NO COVER

OPEN BOWLING TUES-SUN WALK IN OR BOOK ONLINE
LOUNGE KARAOKE TUESDAYS + SUNDAYS w/ MATT WELZ
CLASSIC LOUNGE SOUNDS EVERY 2ND + 4TH WEDNESDAY
POP CULTURE TRIVIA (70s-00's) EVERY 3RD THURSDAY
HAPPY HOUR EVERY FRIDAY 12-5PM (20% OFF ALL DRINKS)
INDUSTRY NIGHT EVERY SUNDAY 6-9PM (20% OFF ALL DRINKS)

FRI DEC 5
BIRDS FROM DINOSAURS
W/ SPEED CIRCUIT
& DJ RYAN GIMPERT

SAT DEC 6
RACOON DOGS
W/ C.I.A.
& DJ DANTON

FRI DEC 12
LADYSHIP WARSHIP
W/ VOXANNA
& DJ SANFORD

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Detroit Opera

DIRECTOR **KANEZA SCHAAL**
CONDUCTOR **ROBERTO KALB**
MARY/JENNIE **NICOLE HEASTON**
BOB/THOMAS **DAVÓNE TINES**
NATE/BRACK **VICTOR RYAN ROBERTSON**

HIGHWAYS & VALLEYS

Highway 1, USA

MUSIC **WILLIAM GRANT STILL**
LIBRETTO **VERNA ARVEY**

Composed in the 1940s, *Highway 1, USA* is a distinctly American story of ordinary people aspiring for the "American dream."

Still's work celebrates the Black experience in an engaging musical voice, revealing how African American culture is central to the sound of our national identity.

This is a production of LA Opera.

Down in the Valley

MUSIC **KURT WEILL**
LIBRETTO **ARNOLD SUNDGAARD**

Weill's "folk opera in one act" *Down in the Valley* was originally written for the radio at the same time Still was composing his reflection of Black life.

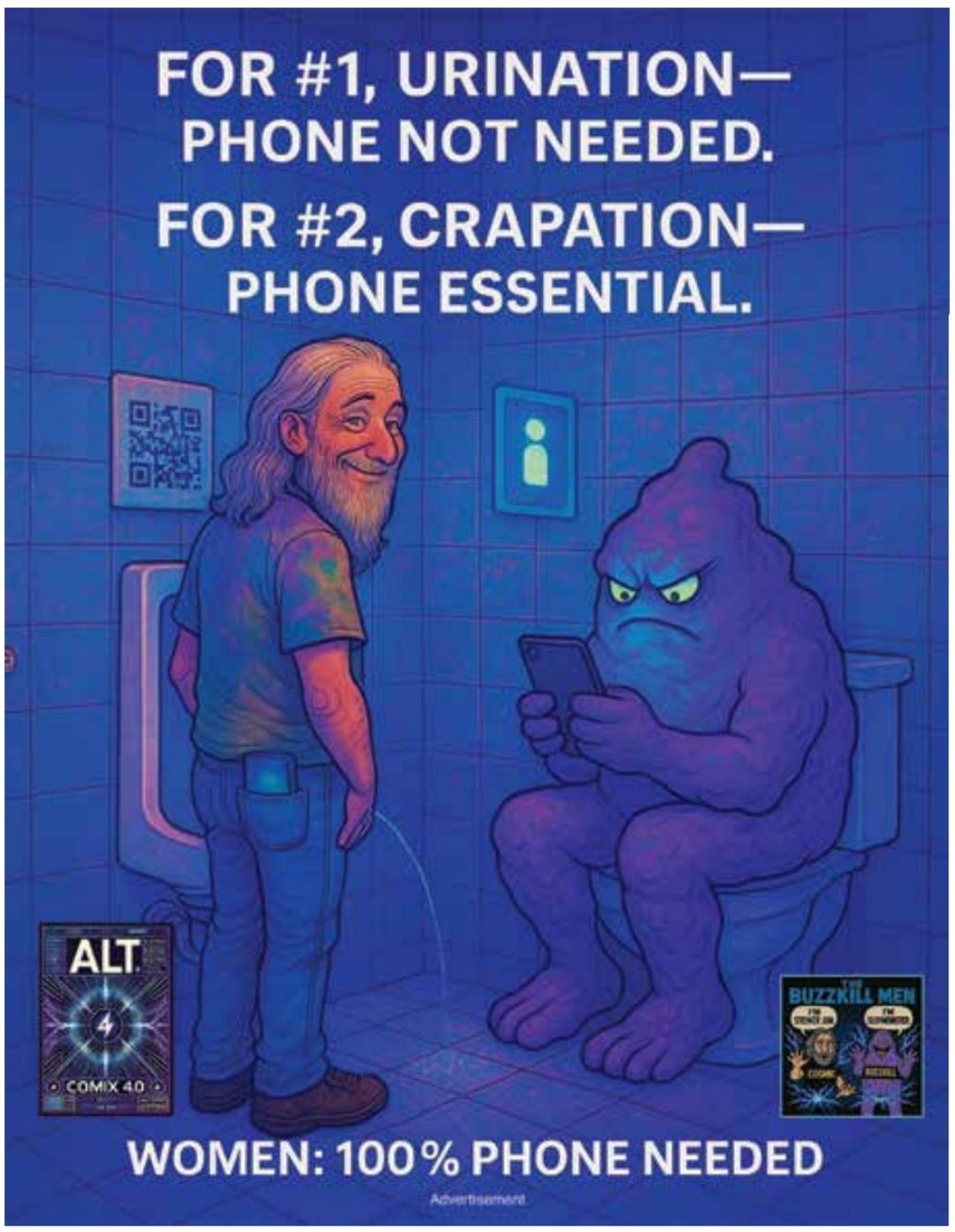
Weaving together American folk songs and original choruses, Weill incorporates the music of his adopted homeland to reflect the search for belonging among immigrant communities.

Detroit Opera Production Premiere.

December 07 / 11 / 13

Tickets on sale now!

DetroitOpera.org | 313.237.7464



NEWS & VIEWS

Feedback

Comments in response to last issue's story, "Experts say Warren police broke the law in brutal beating of mentally in man":

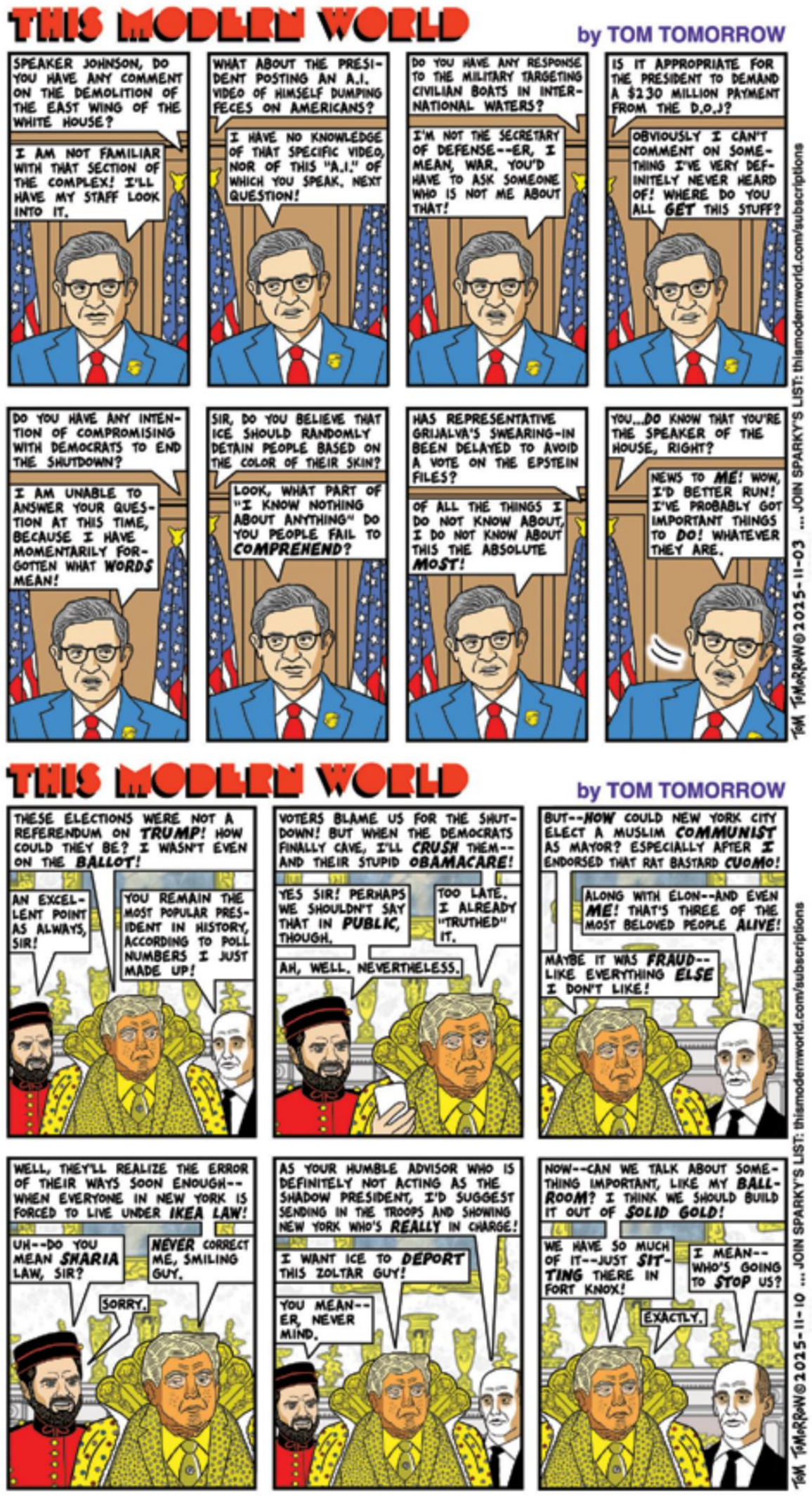
Experts...
—@ diskjockeyink, Instagram

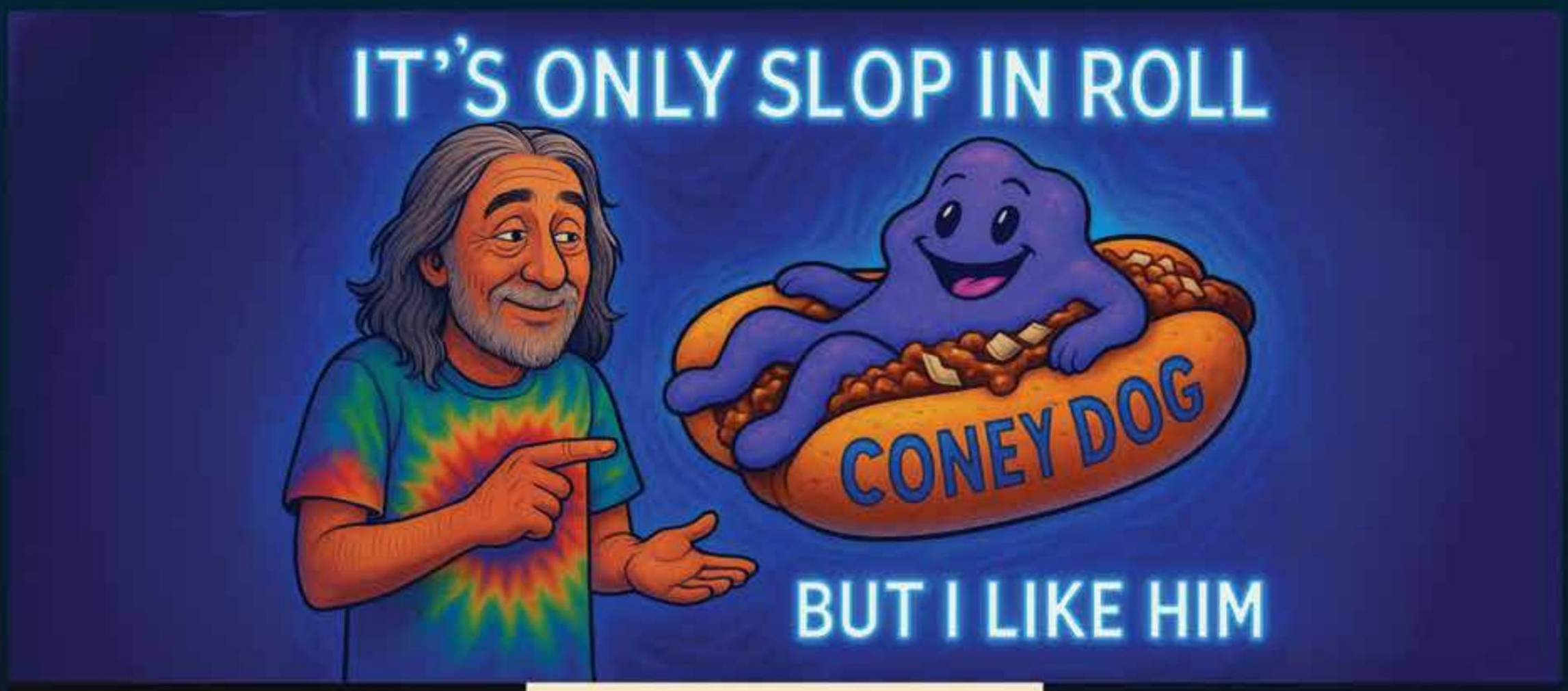
Warren gonna warren. God is watching.
—@matt___marietta, Instagram

Every reasonable person (of which Lucido is not) could tell that was criminal abuse of force. Loser Lucido can't protect his residents so I'm sure he'll do nothing but sputter and grandstand as usual.
—@wekeepussafedetroit, Instagram

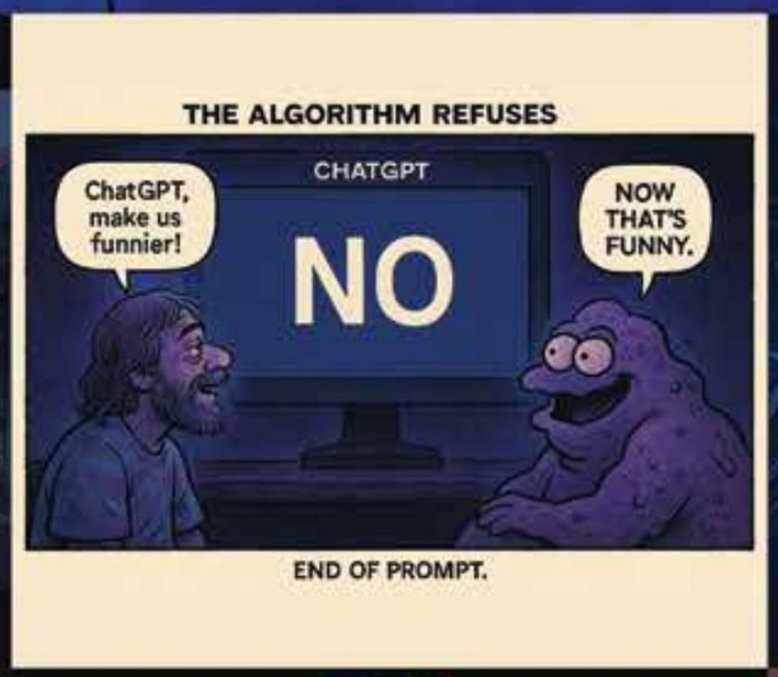
ICE is normalizing the sort of thing...
—@ pdxlinder Instagram

Have an opinion? Of course you do! Sound off: letters@metrotimes.com. MT


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
SPEAKER JOHNSON, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DEMOLITION OF THE EAST WING OF THE WHITE HOUSE?
I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT SECTION OF THE COMPLEX! I'LL HAVE MY STAFF LOOK INTO IT.
WHAT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT POSTING AN A.I. VIDEO OF HIMSELF DUMPING FECES ON AMERICANS?
I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT SPECIFIC VIDEO, NOR OF THIS "A.I." OF WHICH YOU SPEAK. NEXT QUESTION!
DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO THE MILITARY TARGETING CIVILIAN BOATS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS?
I'M NOT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE--ER, I MEAN, WAR. YOU'D HAVE TO ASK SOMEONE WHO IS NOT ME ABOUT THAT!
IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DEMAND A $230 MILLION PAYMENT FROM THE D.O.J?
OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T COMMENT ON SOMETHING I'VE VERY DEFINITELY NEVER HEARD OF! WHERE DO YOU ALL GET THIS STUFF?
DO YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION OF COMPROMISING WITH DEMOCRATS TO END THE SHUTDOWN?
I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE I HAVE MOMENTARILY FORGOTTEN WHAT WORDS MEAN!
SIR, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT ICE SHOULD RANDOMLY DETAIN PEOPLE BASED ON THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN?
LOOK, WHAT PART OF "I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANYTHING" DO YOU PEOPLE FAIL TO COMPREHEND?
HAS REPRESENTATIVE GRIJALVA'S SWEARING-IN BEEN DELAYED TO AVOID A VOTE ON THE EPSTEIN FILES?
OF ALL THE THINGS I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT, I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS THE ABSOLUTE MOST!
YOU...DO KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, RIGHT?
NEWS TO ME! WOW, I'D BETTER RUN! I'VE PROBABLY GOT IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO! WHATEVER THEY ARE.
TOM TOMORROW@2025-11-03 ...JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions
THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
THESE ELECTIONS WERE NOT A REFERENDUM ON TRUMP! HOW COULD THEY BE? I WASN'T EVEN ON THE BALLOT!
AN EXCELLENT POINT AS ALWAYS, SIR!
YOU REMAIN THE MOST POPULAR PRESIDENT IN HISTORY, ACCORDING TO POLL NUMBERS I JUST MADE UP!
VOTERS BLAME US FOR THE SHUTDOWN! BUT WHEN THE DEMOCRATS FINALLY CAVE, I'LL CRUSH THEM--AND THEIR STUPID OBAMACARE!
YES SIR! PERHAPS WE SHOULDN'T SAY THAT IN PUBLIC, THOUGH.
TOO LATE. I ALREADY "TRUTHED" IT.
AH, WELL. NEVERTHELESS.
BUT--NOW COULD NEW YORK CITY ELECT A MUSLIM COMMUNIST AS MAYOR? ESPECIALLY AFTER I ENDORSED THAT RAT BASTARD CUOMO!
ALONG WITH ELON--AND EVEN ME! THAT'S THREE OF THE MOST BELOVED PEOPLE ALIVE!
MAYBE IT WAS FRAUD--LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE I DON'T LIKE!
WELL, THEY'LL REALIZE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS SOON ENOUGH--WHEN EVERYONE IN NEW YORK IS FORCED TO LIVE UNDER IKEA LAW!
UH--DO YOU MEAN SHARIA LAW, SIR?
NEVER CORRECT ME, SMILING GUY.
SORRY.
AS YOUR HUMBLE ADVISOR WHO IS DEFINITELY NOT ACTING AS THE SHADOW PRESIDENT, I'D SUGGEST SENDING IN THE TROOPS AND SHOWING NEW YORK WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE!
I WANT ICE TO DEPORT THIS ZOLTAR GUY!
YOU MEAN--ER, NEVER MIND.
NOW--CAN WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT, LIKE MY BALLROOM? I THINK WE SHOULD BUILD IT OUT OF SOLID GOLD!
WE HAVE SO MUCH OF IT--JUST SITTING THERE IN FORT KNOX!
I MEAN--WHO'S GOING TO STOP US?
EXACTLY.
TOM TOMORROW@2025-11-10 ...JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions


IT''S ONLY SLOP IN ROLL
CONEY DOG
BUT I LIKE HIM

METRO HIGH TIMES
HAVE YOU STOPPED RUINING THE METRO TIMES?
NO!
ART ISSUE
EW


THE ALGORITHM REFUSES
CHATGPT
ChatGPT, make us funnier!
NO
NOW THAT'S FUNNY.
END OF PROMPT.

NOW POWERED BY AI
THE BULLSHIT EXCUSE GENERATOR
THE DOG ATE MY HOMEWORK.

WE CAN FEEL IT BUT CAN'T NAME IT.
HE CAN NAME IT BUT CAN'T FEEL IT.
ChatGPT

THE BUZZKILL MEN
I'M STONER JIM.
I'M SLOPMONSTER.
COSMIC
BUZZKILL

HEROES MISSION BBQ
3X THE PATRIOTISM
They could feel the temperature – and the crowd – rising.

ARE WE NOT MEN?
HOW DOES IT FEEL?
LET'S ASK THE ALGORITHM!

WHAT IF WE HAD SOMETHING MORE TO SAY?
WE WOUDN''T BE BROKE, DUDE.

Slop:
Everything, everywhere, all at once, again and again and again.
WE HAVE 69,000 IMAGES!
AND METRO TIMES NEEDS 10.
Advertisement

Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield was elected mayor. CITY OF DETROIT, FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Mary Sheffield wins big, becomes Detroit's first woman mayor

Detroit City Council
President Mary Sheffield will become the first woman to be mayor of the city after handily defeating Rev. Solomon Kinloch Jr. in last Tuesday's general election.

Sheffield earned 88,229 votes to Kinloch's 25,725, or 77.4% to 22.6%.

Sheffield, 38, entered the race as the clear frontrunner after defeating eight other candidates with 50.8% of the vote in August's primary. Kinloch, pastor of Triumph Church, which has more than 40,000 members and seven locations including two in Detroit, finished a distant second with 17.4%.

Sheffield's victory is a historic milestone for Detroit, which has never elected a woman as mayor in its 324-year history. Sheffield will also be one of the youngest to hold the office, continuing a political rise that began when she became the youngest-ever city council member at age 26.

Sheffield has served as the council's president since 2022. In her 13 years on the council, she has become a leading advocate for affordable housing, tenants rights, neighborhood development, property tax reform, and a clean environment. As council president, she has been a vocal critic of inequitable investment strategies, calling for a shift away from tax incentives for downtown developers and toward policies that directly benefit Detroit's most vulnerable residents.

Throughout the campaign, Sheffield continued to call for more affordable housing, economic equity, and government transparency, pledging to prioritize neighborhoods that have been left behind by downtown development. She also called for strengthening police accountability and improving city services.

"When we are united, there is nothing we can't achieve," Sheffield told *Metro Times* when she announced her campaign in December 2024. "We need a Detroit where everyone has reached their potential."

Kinloch, who grew up in poverty, campaigned on his faith-based leadership and said he was inspired to run to ensure all Detroiters have a better future.

But he has faced mounting scrutiny over delinquent water bills, property tax issues, Triumph Church's real estate dealings, his $1.3 million mansion in Royal Oak Township, residency requirements, and a conviction for assaulting his first wife with a butcher knife.

Sheffield's landslide victory follows dozens of endorsements from labor unions, community groups, pastors, and key political figures, including Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and Detroit City Councilman Fred Durhall III.

Sheffield is expected to take office on Jan. 1, succeeding Duggan, who did not seek reelection after three terms in office. Duggan is running for governor as an independent.

—Steve Neavling

'Family values' lawmaker appears in adult sites

The name, email address, and home address of Republican state Rep. Bryan Posthumus of Kent County, along with a credit card bearing his name, appear in data from Ashley Madison, a website for people seeking affairs.

Posthumus, who has built his political career around "traditional family values," was married in March 2012 when the account under his name was used multiple times to access the chat and mail features, according to records reviewed by *Metro Times* and verified through publicly available cybersecurity databases.

Posthumus's personal information also shows up on two other adult hookup websites — AdultFriendFinder and Fling.com, a pornographic dating site that features live web cams and promised users they could "find sex" and "get laid tonight."

An AdultFriendFinder account used the possy355@aol.com email address and was last accessed in 2012.

A Fling.com account listed the same password found in the AdultFriendFinder breach and used his bryan.posthumus@gmail.com address, which Posthumus used in his candidate filing data. The Fling.com information also included his October 26, 1984, birth date. The account lists top interests as "fetish," "group sex," and "online flirting." The account also indicates an interest in men, women, or couples.

Each of these sites has since confirmed the authenticity of the breaches. *Metro Times* independently verified the information using original data files and multiple cybersecurity databases.

In response to questions from *Metro Times*, Posthumus's office in Lansing emailed a letter from the lawmaker's lawyer John C. Burns, who called the allegations "categorically false" and accused the story of being a "hit piece" and "nothing more than a thinly veiled political attack masquerading as journalism."

The 2015 Ashley Madison hack exposed the personal information of more than 30 million users of the infidelity website, which was explicitly marketed to married people seeking affairs under the slogan, "Life is short. Have an affair." The leak ensnared numerous politicians and public officials worldwide and has been used in reporting by outlets, including *The Washing-*

ton Post and *Politico*.

The Ashley Madison data includes an email address linked to Posthumus and a Lowell home address that he and his then-wife purchased in 2011, as well as a credit card bearing his name. The data matches information contained in the leak, which was one of the largest privacy breaches in internet history. The same property and email appear in other public records tied to the lawmaker.

The account was accessed several times between March and September 2012, and it used the site's mail and chat features.

At the time, Posthumus was married. His former wife, Stacy Posthumus, filed for divorce in early 2014, according to court records.

The profile associated with the information contained explicit sexual preferences and listed the user's relationship status as "attached male seeking female." In a written response field, the user wrote:

"I love when a woman takes charge and seduces me."

The account lists favored sexual activities such as "threesome," "being dominant/master," "being submissive/slave," and "one-night stands."

Posthumus, 41, represents part of Kent County in the Michigan House of Representatives, where he serves as majority floor leader. He previously served as Minority Floor Leader and as finance chair for the Kent County Republican Party.

Posthumus married Elizabeth Posthumus in 2022. Since then, he has been accused of living outside his House district on two separate occasions. County court records showed he and his wife filed to run for precinct delegate positions in two separate townships, and only one of those was within his House district. Posthumus said he bought a Cannon Township condo to maintain his residency in the 90th House District while keeping close to his wife's family.

The adult hookup websites stand in stark contrast to the man who has built his image around God, morality, and "traditional family values." In 2022, the Christian Coalition of Michigan named him its "Friend of the Family Award" for his "strong defense of family values." In accepting the award, Posthumus said he was "honored to receive this recognition."

He has voted against repealing Michigan's 1931 abortion ban that lacked exceptions for rape or incest, against removing criminal penalties for doctors who perform abortions, against expanding protections for LGBTQ+ residents, and against banning conversion therapy for minors.

In his attorney's letter to *Metro Times*, Burns accused the publication of trying to "weaponize unverified, anonymous data dumps" and claimed that "a disgruntled former employee" or political opponent could have created the accounts. It also described the reporting as a "thinly veiled political attack masquerading as journalism."

However, the Ashley Madison account was created nearly a decade before Posthumus was first elected to public office.

Posthumus is part of one of Michigan's most prominent Republican political families. His father, Dick Posthumus, served as lieutenant governor under Gov. John Engler from 1999 to 2003, and his sister, Lisa Posthumus Lyons, is the Kent County clerk and register of deeds and previously served three terms in the state House.

Born in Grand Rapids on Oct. 26, 1984, Posthumus earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business management from Michigan State University. He is managing partner of West Michigan Hopyards, a hop farm he co-founded in 2013, and CEO of Tuebor Strategies, a consulting firm launched in 2010. He previously worked as a national account and regional sales manager at Compatico.

Posthumus is a three-term lawmaker who was first elected in November 2020.

Posthumus has twice been convicted of drunk driving — once in 2013 and again in 2021, the latter while serving as a state representative. He spent 15 days in jail following the 2021 conviction. For his 2013 conviction, Posthumus's license was temporarily suspended.

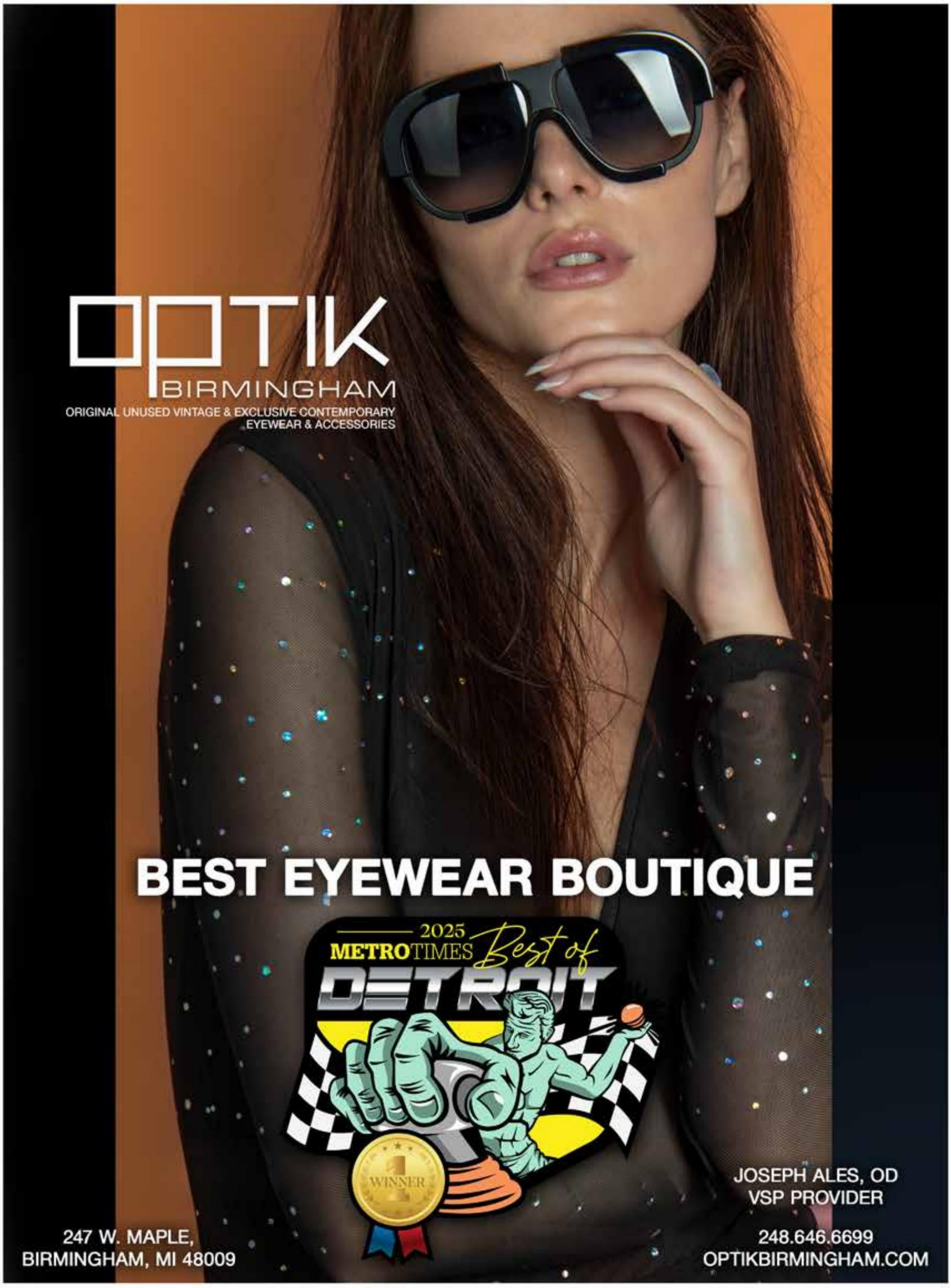
In November 2024, Posthumus and West Michigan Hopyards were sued in federal court by a migrant worker alleging wage theft and labor-law violations. The suit claims worker Jose Magana Garcia was denied full pay, forced to go weeks without compensation, and lacked access to bathroom facilities while working long hours on the 33-acre hop farm.

Posthumus and his business partner have called the allegations "politically motivated" and "frivolous."

Last month, *Metro Times* revealed that Republican state Rep. Josh Schriver, R-Oxford, who introduced legislation in September to ban online pornography statewide, appeared on Fling.com. The leaked information, verified by the cybersecurity database SnusBase, lists Schriver's email address and a profile indicating sexual interests including "fetish" and "groupsex." The account was last accessed on Sept. 11, 2010, according to breach data.

Schriver denied having a Fling.com account.

—Steve Neavling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A detail from Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry *murals.* COURTESY OF THE DIA

DIA's Diego Rivera murals inspire museum union effort

Mexican artist Diego Rivera's *Detroit Industry Murals* stand tall and proud inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, a monument to the power of workers and a city long associated with organized labor.

Those murals, in part, have inspired DIA workers to move to form a union. The DIA Workers United effort was announced last Tuesday by the Michigan chapter of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which is asking for voluntary recognition from the museum.

"It's been something that workers at the museum have been discussing, honestly, since I've been there," says Tyler Taylor, who started at the DIA as an intern in 2008 and joined its education department in 2014, working with schoolteachers to utilize the museum's resources for students.

"It's a difficult topic to avoid given that the DIA is home to Diego Rivera's *Detroit Industry Murals*," Taylor says. "I don't know of a greater celebration of labor power and collaboration that has entered the canon. You can't help but be influenced by that work, how Rivera depicted the dignity of labor."

Taylor says workers connected with AFSCME earlier this year and gave the museum 48 hours to recognize their union.

"We are very confident, strong, and determined in our unified efforts to improve the museum," Taylor says, adding, "We think this would be a powerful and positive signal, one that I would say would be truly in the spirit of the city, that they value collaboration and respect their employees and their right to have a say."

The DIA Workers United say they seek "fair pay, job security, and a voice in the decision-making process that affects their work."

"For me, it just strikes me as truly a natural evolution for the DIA, referring to not just Rivera's work at the heart of the collection, but really the legacy of labor in this city and how through collective bargaining the auto workers built maybe the strongest working class this country has known," Taylor says. "It's through that spirit of collaboration that we think that DIA can grow and thrive."

Taylor adds that he was recently diagnosed with a disability and feels a union would help support him as he navigates it.

"Just the prospect of engaging with a monolithic human resources department, even if they're good people, it can be intimidating and overwhelming because that's a relationship where one side has all the power and legal authority," Taylor says. "And so our union will work to help make workers feel secure in those situations and supported by their colleagues."

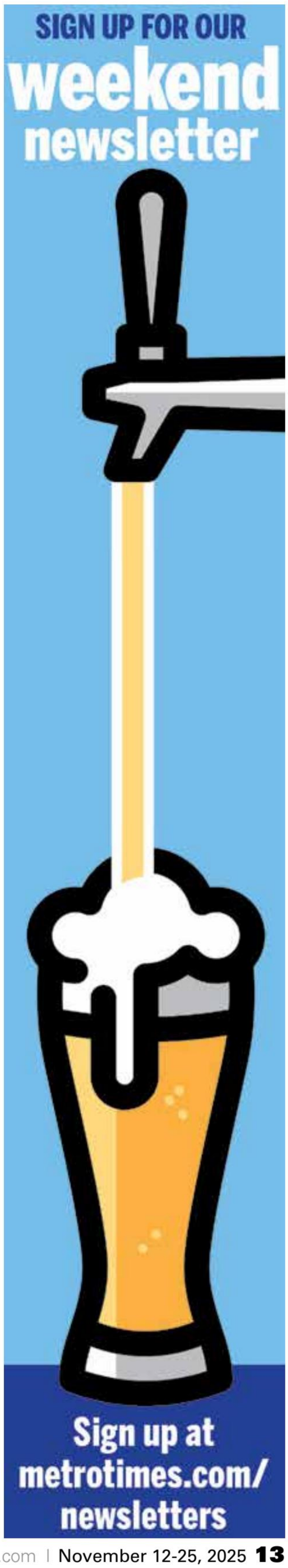
He adds, "You always feel more secure when you're supported by your colleagues and you're working in concert toward a shared goal."

In a statement, the DIA acknowledged the union effort.

"The Detroit Institute of Arts is profoundly grateful for our talented staff — the heart of everything we do," the museum said. "For decades we have had valued relationships with the two unions representing some of our colleagues, and those relationships have been built on mutual respect. We fully respect our employees' legal rights to organize and to choose whether they wish to be represented by a union. On Tuesday, November 4th, the DIA received a letter requesting that it recognize a union seeking to represent groups of employees who are currently unrepresented. The DIA continues to be committed to having a fair, supportive, and inspiring workplace."

Workers and community members can learn more and sign a letter of support at diaworkersunited.org.

—Lee DeVito MT



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THE WRECK OF THE

EDMUND

BY THOMAS NELSON WITH JERALD PODAIR

FITZGERALD

50 years later, a new book looks at how economic forces and industrial decline led to a Great Lakes tragedy

On Nov. 10, 1975, the SS Edmund Fitzgerald *sank in Lake Superior, killing its entire crew of 29 and becoming the largest shipwreck in the Great Lakes. The tragedy was immortalized in a Gordon Lightfoot ballad, and in the decades since a number of theories have been put forth about what caused the ship to sink. In his new book* Wrecked: The Edmund Fitzgerald and the Sinking of the American Economy *(Michigan University Press, 2025), Thomas Nelson (with Jerald Podair) argues it was the decline of Midwest industry that led to the ship's demise. The following excerpt is published with permission.*

It was Thomas Wolfe who told us, "You can't go home again." And so it was with the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. Only on rare occasions did this storied Great Lakes ore ship ever return home. Instead, the Mighty Fitz — as she was affectionately known — overnighted in Silver Bay, Minnesota, when she was upbound on the Great Lakes and in Toledo, Ohio, when she was downbound, resting along the docks of Lake Erie.

On the rare occasion she made it back home to Milwaukee, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* sat a few blocks from the headquarters of her owner, Northwestern Mutual. The insurance giant has stood tall along the skyline of Wisconsin's largest city just as it dominated competitors in the life insurance market for years. So it's not surprising that when Northwestern Mutual paid the Great Lakes Engineering Works of Detroit to build the Fitzgerald, they had just one requirement: make her the biggest ship to ever sail the Lakes.

The ship's namesake was the CEO of the company. Edmund Fitzgerald did not come from modest means. His father was a renowned shipbuilder; his maternal grandfather was a respected manufacturer and industrial leader in Milwaukee who served in the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration; and his paternal grandfather was a ship captain. Nevertheless, unlike today's scions of rich parents, Fitzgerald's father would make sure his son earned his keep. Thus began a career-long climb to the C-suite of one of the country's largest insurance companies and one of the Dairy State's biggest employers.

Despite getting out of the family business, Fitzgerald never lost the sailing bug. And he wanted to do right by the family, not just carrying on the family name but immortalizing their name in a great iron ore ship. Fitzerald wanted to make sure it was not only the largest ship but also a well-built and safe ship for its crew. Alas, you cannot have small budgets that cut corners and a high-quality product; it must be one or the other. It was tradition for ships to be named after the owning company's CEO or president. The *Arthur M. Anderson* was named after the CEO of U.S. Steel. The *William Clay Ford*, built six years before the *Edmund Fitzgerald* in 1952, was named after Henry Ford's grandson and member of the Ford Motor Company's board of directors. But despite all of these male namesakes, ships like the Fitzgerald are referred to as "she" or "her," as sailors have been wont to do over the course of history.

After loading up taconite ore in Silver Bay, the Queen of the Lakes, as the Fitzgerald was also referred to, would travel across Superior, through Huron and into Erie, where her cargo would be unloaded in Toledo, Ohio. From there, the ore would be hauled by rail car to steel plants in Ohio and Kentucky. Then, she would return to Silver Bay for another run. And another. And another. She repeated the journey seven or even eight months out of the year. The Fitzgerald's role was the third stage of the steel-making process. Pure iron ore had long since been extracted from the open pit mines of northern Minnesota and Ontario, Canada, in the 1950s, shortly after the ship- and plane-building demands of World War II had drained the mines dry. Companies were now mining taconite, which contained only 25 to 30 percent pure iron. Nevertheless, it would still get the job done by feeding the hungry forges of Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and throughout Kentucky.

On a beautiful June morning in Superior, Wisconsin, in 2023, almost forty-eight years since the *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank, Bob Hom, a former sailor of the Great Lakes, offered me a chair on his freshly laid asphalt driveway. The sun was brilliant, and the black driveway radiated its warmth. He could remember vividly the day and moment the Fitzgerald left the port of Superior for the last time. Hom would have been one of the last people on land who saw the ship before it sank.

"My wife and I drove over the bridge to go to Fairlawn Museum in Superior and we could see the Fitzgerald leaving out of the Superior port. It was a beautiful day like this. A gorgeous day," Hom told me. On November 9, 1975, Bob and his wife,

The Edmund Fitzgerald *bow anchor on display at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum in Detroit.* ANNEBETHMI, WIKIMEDIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Peg, were going to meet up with Fitzgerald Wheelsman Eugene "Red" O'Brien, a good friend of the couple. Bob had sailed with Red as well as other Fitzgerald crew members on other boats. Red would have to take a rain check on dinner because the Fitzgerald was departing early. A storm had been building over the Oklahoma panhandle the day before. The system was estimated to hit just south of Lake Superior by the early evening of the following day. Best to get ahead of the storm.

Hom recalled his phone call with Red like it was yesterday: "[Red] called and I said, 'Where are you?' 'Well, I'm in Superior,' he said. 'So, I'll come see you,' I said. 'No, we're just about ready to leave. This is our last trip and when I get done, I'm going to go up to Minneapolis and spend a week with my sister. And then I'm going to come and spend a week with you and Peg in Duluth.' 'Okay, I'll see you in two or three weeks.' And that was it."

Bob hasn't had much chance to talk about the Fitzgerald. It was a long time ago and "most of [his] friends and sailors are gone." "I still get a little misty eyed. I'm sorry. It's only been what, fifty years," Hom deadpanned as a tear or two welled up in his eyelids. "I don't talk about it very often. I don't know anybody else you could talk about it with." Peg, tending to flowers along the house, looks back to check on her husband to make sure he's okay. She knows how he feels. Red was her friend, too.

While a severe storm was gathering in the southwest on November 9, 1975, it was certainly not unusual for that time of the year. The *Edmund Fitzgerald* had handled plenty of storm systems from the south where the winds and warm fronts made weather more hazardous. Not as bad as a nor'easter, but trouble enough.

Fitzgerald captain Ernest M. McSorley had a well-established reputation as a rough-weather captain who never blinked at going into a punishing storm. He had a job to do, and he took it quite seriously. "You don't make money sitting in port," McSorley, the quintessential company man, would say. Decades at the helm of the Fitzgerald and nine other ships showed on his face. Weather-beaten and serious, a smile that betrayed a total unwillingness of suffering fools. Certain legions of sailors and first mates learned that lesson the hard way.

Third Mate Michael Armagost was accustomed to shipping out of Silver Bay, Minnesota, which was about a two-hour drive from his home in Iron River, Wisconsin. By comparison, Iron River felt like an outer-ring suburb of Superior. Armagost felt bad leaving First Mate Jack McCarthy at the dock to handle the loading, which would take most of the morning, but family was family. He had a wife, Janice, and two young children, Michele and Christopher, and valued his time with them.

After dropping Mike off at the dock, Janice took the kids for burgers. While finishing up their late lunch, they watched the Fitzgerald sail off in the distance. The three of them waved goodbye to their dad and husband, sad to see him go but anxious for the coming off-season when they could celebrate Christopher's third birthday and enjoy Thanksgiving dinner together.

Armagost felt bad leaving McCarthy in part because Captain McSorley didn't like to spend any more money than he had to on these trips, and he leaned heavily on his fellow sailors to prep the ship for them. Having his mates aboard to ready the ship for sail meant he didn't have to pay deckhands double time because it was a Sunday.

McSorley ran a tight ship, and his wife enjoyed the bonuses for making more runs with heavier payloads beyond his quota. McSorley was good at running the ship, and his wife Nellie proved it. "I always remember my aunt Nellie walking in with her big fur coat [at Thanksgiving or Christmas]," McSorley's niece Kay McSorley recalled to me. "Just glamorous . . . I always was amazed by the fur coat."

Watchman Ransom "Ray" Cundy of Superior may have been slipping out of the local bar. "Ransom tended to drink his paychecks," Superior attorney Toby Marcovich told me, although he never failed to pay his lawyers' fees. Toby used Cundy's fee payments as a mnemonic device to forever remember his name. "Ransom, as in money," he told me. It's one reason the seasoned small-town jack-of-all-trades (and master of all of them) lawyer would accept Doreen Cundy's case against Oglebay Norton Corporation, the shipping company that ran the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. She would be lucky to work with him; Toby had won million-dollar settlements, gotten someone off a murder rap, and labored through the occasional probate estate cases.

The description of Cundy was not necessarily inaccurate, but it wasn't exactly fair either. The year before in 1974, Cundy's daughter was shot to death by her husband in a horrific murder-suicide. He was once the life of the party — or in this the case the ship — but the tragedy weighed heavy on him. He never regained the spark in his step nor his wry, trademark sense of humor. Nonetheless, his daughter, Cheryl Rozman, remembered him fondly as a devoted father with a "tender heart" and one who worked hard, made friends quickly, and always kept those friends close.

But because of his drinking, Cundy's wife couldn't rely on him for a steady income. She took up work waiting tables at Louis's Diner, which Toby frequented. Louis's was the beating heart of downtown Superior, where people of all walks of life gathered — sailors, lawyers, doctors, farmers, longshoremen. This was where Toby met Doreen. The relationship ensured Doreen had a good lawyer on hand, in case she ever needed one.

As the *Edmund Fitzgerald* steamed out of the port on November 9, 1975, Bob and Peg Hom, just like Janice and her children, waved farewell from far off in the distance. The Fitzgerald's final voyage had begun.

Armagost, Cundy, McSorley and the rest of the crew were hoping this would be the last trip of the season. But if the weather was any indication, they could be going into December, because it felt like an Indian summer. One of the boat loaders, Clarence Dennis, would have agreed with Bob Hom about the day. "It was a nice day. It could have been a little cloudy, but it was not a stormy day," Dennis said. Winds were picking up and there could be some storms in the offing, but that was nothing unusual. "We were indicating a general increase in winds and an increase in the waves," according to Raymond Waldman of the National Weather Service. Forecasts would change in the coming hours, but for now, all was quiet.

Although in 1975 meteorological equipment and techniques were not archaic, ore freighters like the Fitzgerald were woefully underequipped, and there were no dedicated fixed entities along the way to collect data and make weather observations. Crews relied on ships ahead of the weather to gather data and report back. It was a less-than-ideal system, and the National Weather Service would agree. "We have very few places from which we get weather information from a fixed point on a continuous basis, so we have an urgent need for that kind of information," Raymond Waldman of the National Weather Service in Chicago said. The truth was that the union had fought tooth and nail for these and other workplace safety improvements. Employers were either too cheap or too oblivious to find ways to improve travel efficiency, protect workers, safeguard expensive cargo, and save money — or all four.

Workplace safety had not been taken as seriously then as it would be later. The Occupational Safety and Health

Act (OSHA) had recently been adopted (1970). Automation and mechanization not only led to job loss but also sped up production processes that "increased dangers" for workers toiling alongside assembly lines. The proof was in the pudding: occupational injury incident rates were a staggering threefold greater in 1975 (9.1) than in 2018 (2.8).

Charts proved useless, but not because they weren't good sources of information. Ship captains were not unlike dads who refuse to use road maps to make their way around the country on family vacations. "I had captains yell at me for using radar, search lights, and looking at charts," former Great Lakes sailor (1976–87) and Green Bay, Wisconsin, attorney Tim Nixon told me; although in this instance it would not matter because the chart available on the *Edmund Fitzgerald* was fifty-three years old.

The reason for the captains' unwillingness? "According to the captains, you didn't need it. Didn't like you talking on the radio; didn't like you telling anybody anything," Nixon said. Rand McNally doesn't tell dad how to drive the family minivan, either.

The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was heading to Detroit rather than her usual lower lake destination of Toledo, Ohio, because that day she was sailing for National Steel and not Oglebay Norton Corporation. Ship companies had mutual aid agreements. If one needed a load of taconite at a particular time but did not have the capacity to fill the order, they could tap the resources of another company. It wasn't too common, but it did happen. In 1975, the Fitz loaded up at the Superior ore docks on four instances, or approximately 10 percent of the time. The Fitzgerald made on average forty-four round trips each season. In this instance, National Steel needed a load of taconite for its steel mill in Detroit but didn't have a ship in the upper lake.

Oglebay Norton Corporation got them out of their pinch. Yes, they were competitors, but they were in the same league, if not on the same team. Foreign competition was crushing the steel industry, and it was gobbling up more and more of the U.S. domestic car market. Collectively, steel companies had an incentive to cut costs as much as possible to remain competitive with the steel giants overseas such as Japan and South Korea. From 1950 to 1976, U.S. steel production fell by over one-half — from 50 percent to 20 percent of world production. By the 1970s the "only positive export trend . . . material dominance which underlay international economic strategy vanished." This is to say nothing of a comprehensive, economic-wide industrial strategy. Worse, when elected officials had a good idea or two to shore up industry and jobs, the country's editorial pages and elite were assailing "protectionism" though "ignoring the foreign subsidies or government ownership" that created industry's problem in the first place. Trade policies were also "dominated by strategic political considerations" as opposed to serious domestic, economic concerns typically in an effort to bolster counter weights to communist spheres of influence in southeast Asia.

The winds picked up as the day wore on. Cedric Woodward, pilot of the Swedish-flagged *Avafors*, and Captain Jesse Cooper of the *Arthur M. Anderson* were both on the lake that evening, though they were coming from opposite ends of the lake. Each had a different take on the weather. "I would consider it a severe local storm because it was intense, but it was not a vast wide two-day storm," Cooper said. "It was very severe . . . it was one of the biggest and wildest seas I have been in," Woodward said.

The difference in perspective can be easily explained. According to Ledolf Baer, director of the National Oceanographic Services office, "There is a great deal of variance between eyeball estimates."

"What studies show is if you are on a big boat, you tend to underestimate the waves. . . . [The studies] showed that what people think they see from a ship, what they talk about wave height, is the significant height," said Baer.

Woodward's *Avafors* was a saltwater ship and built for the rolling seas of an ocean, not the mercurial, pounding waves of Superior. And Woodward had the added perspective of sailing oceans and not just lakes. The waves appeared larger and felt worse to Woodward than what Cooper saw and experienced. The inexact science of "eyeballing" wave size proved even more dangerous because that was all captains had to go on. Ships on the Great Lakes did not have any instruments to measure the size of waves.

Just nineteen minutes after the Fitzgerald left safe harbor, the National Weather Service issued gale warnings. They were upgrades from the report they received at 2:20 p.m. but nothing of great concern; the reports were always subject to change, sometimes at a moment's notice. In the Midwest, there is a saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait an hour."

At 4:15 p.m., McSorley spotted the *Arthur M. Anderson*, the other ore freighter, leaving her port of Two Harbors, Minnesota, about half an hour south of the Fitzgerald's normal upper lake port of Silver Bay. The Anderson was about fifteen miles behind the Fitzgerald. Just to be cautious, McSorley and the Anderson's skipper, Jesse "Bernie" Cooper, made it a point to stay in contact. This was particularly important for the Fitzgerald because they were heading north and east, away from the storm. The Anderson would get the weather first and would be the Fitzgerald's main source of weather information from here on out — more so than the National Weather Service.

The two ships crossed paths around 7:00 p.m. The Anderson would be sailing to the south of the Fitzgerald, while the latter would be taking a more northerly route. They would remain in this formation until the following afternoon at 12:30 p.m. and then switch once more around 3:30 p.m., when each was approaching Whitefish Bay on the far eastern edge of the lake and thereafter the Soo Locks at Sault (pronounced "Soo") Ste. Marie, which connected Superior with Huron via the Saint Mary's River.

The next important milestone for the Fitzgerald was passing Isle Royale in the lake's northern waters around 1:00 a.m. This island was a leftover chunk of earth rock on the lake's basin that the glaciers missed when retreating north some forty thousand years earlier. It was of good size and hard to miss.

While the weather conditions grew in severity, the Fitzgerald made her regular weather report at 7:00 a.m., but this would be her last one. She would miss the regularly scheduled 1:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 1:00 a.m., and 7:00 a.m. reports. The Fitzgerald reported that wind speeds were at thirty-five knots and waves were as high as ten feet. She also reported that their arrival at the Soo Locks would be "indefinite, due to the weather." She would augment her route by tacking north to be closer to land, seeking cover from stormy waters. Still, there was nothing to suggest things were seriously awry. Captains and crew were well accustomed to the weather this time of the year; November was the worst month for sailing.

On Monday, November 10, at 1:00 p.m., the Fitzgerald was within eleven miles of Michipicoten Island, located in the north-central portion of the lake. This was as close to the shore as the Fitzgerald could be and still make the Soo Locks without getting too far off its direct route. McSorley had to decide: safety or efficiency. Ships carried only enough fuel to make port and had to conserve resources. There was also a tradeoff: the more fuel a ship carried, the less cargo it could haul. Battling rough seas burned up additional precious fuel. Timing was also important to captains because saving time also meant bonuses, though crew members had no such incentive.

At 2:45 p.m., the Anderson changed course to avoid the Six Fathom Shoal, which was located just north of Caribou Island and ninety miles away from Sault Ste Marie. Cooper noted that the Fitzgerald held her position and "passed close" to the shoal. According to an account taken during a U.S. Coast Guard investigation the following year, Cooper told his first mate that "the Fitzgerald was closer to [the] shoal than he wanted the Anderson to be."

And just as older captains refuse to consult charts, they also avoid telling each other what they should or should not do with their own ships. Cooper's testimony does not say if he warned the Fitzgerald that she appeared to be getting too close to the shoal, nor does it indicate whether the question was asked at all. According to Jim Woodward, son of *Avafors* captain Cedric Woodward, Cooper refused to allow his first mate to call the Fitzgerald and warn McSorley he was heading for the Six Fathom Shoal. "My dad was on the *Avafors* that night and they were talking of the event of that night and that's when the mate told my dad about it." The reason? "Another captain doesn't sail another captain's ship," Woodward recalled.

The Fitzgerald did not avoid the shoal. For many historians and Fitzgerald buffs, this was the decision that triggered the chain of events leading to the ship's demise. The decision would be central to one of the longest sustaining and credible theories, one that Cooper believed until the day he died; the ship bottomed out on the Six Fathom Shoal and tore a hole in the hull. "I don't care what anybody says . . . she had either bottomed out or had a stress fracture in the hull," Cooper stated in the government's official after-action investigatory report, referring to the notorious Six Fathom Shoal near Caribou Island that had grounded other boats in the past. "She was sinking from that time on."

Ric Mixter, a documentarian, former TV reporter, radio DJ and Fitzgerald enthusiast who has studied the wreckage since he made a dive to the Fitzgerald in 1994, would not agree. Mixter would argue that there was no sign of underlying damage to the stern despite the fact that — confirmed by his first-hand observation — it rested in an inverted position on the bottom of the lake. Mixter also argues that there were no signs of the ship running aground at Six Fathom Shoal, although this is a rather dubious conclusion since the shoal is one mile long and was never fully inspected. Moreover, shoals — like any matter on a lake bottom — are susceptible to erosion and any evidence of a grounding would have disappeared long ago.

Meanwhile, a low-pressure system from Canada was washing over the lake and mixing with water still warm from the summer, producing a massive snowfall. Combined with high winds, sailing conditions quickly deteriorated. That was enough for the Coast Guard to direct all ships headed to the Soo to anchor near shore. The locks were closing, and the weather was getting worse. But the Anderson and Fitzgerald soldiered on.

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Forty-five minutes later, at 3:30 p.m., McSorley reported top-side damage. This was the first report from McSorley that the ship was sustaining damage. According to McSorley, the deck's rail fence broke, vents on the deck were damaged, and the boat was taking on a list.

MCSORLEY: Anderson, this is the Fitzgerald. I have sustained some topside damage. I have a fence rail laid down, two vents lost or damaged, and a list. I'm checking down [slowing speed]. Will you stay by me til I get to Whitefish?
COOPER: Charlie on that Fitzgerald. Do you have your pumps going?

MCSORLEY: Yes, both of them.

McSorley had had enough. He was doing the sailing equivalent of stopping at the nearest gas station to ask for directions.

The three damage reports were significant because they were highly unusual. It was almost without precedent for them to occur at the same time.

First, fence rails on the side of an ore ship rarely come down. They are built to last and withstand the worst possible weather conditions. The rails consist of three 3/8-inch wire cords strung through three-inch-thick stanchions thirty inches tall. Sometimes one cord will snap. Once in a blue moon the second strand will break. But it is rare that all three strands break and the rail collapses. If it were to snap off completely it is likely because of hogging, according to Cooper. Hogging typically occurs when cargo is not evenly distributed. On the Fitzgerald and other Great Lakes freighters, cargo holds are separated by walls, but the dividers are not indestructible — far from it. In rough seas, shifting cargo can break through the walls and spill into other holds.

Second, the damaged vents — which had likely popped off, according to testimony by Cooper — suggested that intense water and air pressure from below popped the vent like an engine overheating and blowing a gasket. The engineers would quickly turn on the ship's two ballast pumps. Ballast pumps pull water out of the ballast tanks when the ship comes to port. Water pours out of a hole on the side of the ship as if it were relieving itself. They can also be used to pump out water coming into the ballast tanks while sailing. The cargo hold is another matter. On a full load, and especially in heavy storms, pumps in the cargo hold are next to useless. Pumps get clogged up and water that does get into the hold usually stays there because taconite, which consists of permeable sand silica, acts like millions of little sponges absorbing water. It weighs the ship down considerably.

Third, McSorley disclosed "a list," which occurs when damage is done to one side of the ship, including a tear in the hull. That is, the ship begins to drift just slightly in a certain direction without the control of the helm. Cooper would soon after describe the list as a "starboard list" — the side of the ship facing Six Fathom Shoal. That would mean it would be quite possible that it had run aground and sprung a leak. For some, including Ric Mixter, the details are neither significant nor accurate. Mixter likens Cooper's claim of a starboard list to the telephone game, as telling and retelling a story allows it to take on new details, shapes, and sizes. Another Fitzgerald enthusiast, Jeff Thomas, notes the discrepancy of Cooper referring to a starboard list after the fact but gives it short shrift.

While the argument that Cooper misrepresented the occurrence certainly has some merit, Cooper's detail should not be discounted. The events of November 10 were more significant and lasting than anecdotes and jokes told at a cocktail party. In the eighteen years since the ship's sinking, Cooper had more than enough time to turn over in his head the events of November 10. He made this statement for the Coast Guard report and maintained his conclusion until the day he died: "I don't care what anybody says. At 3:10 in the afternoon, she had either bottomed out or had a stress fracture in the hull. That's the only two possibilities. She was sinking from that time on."

In *The Trial of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, editor Michael Schumacher cited a transcript from the U.S. Coast Guard investigation's interview with Cooper, which had heretofore not been published. According to Schumacher, Cooper explains why he considered it a starboard list: "I was up in the wheelhouse when [McSorley] called, and he told me that his fence rail was laid down and that he had snapped off two vents and he was taking water through those vents into the tanks. He didn't say starboard or port list, but I would assume it was a starboard list, because the sea was on our starboard side a little bit." If he was not certain it was a starboard list, why didn't he change his mind in the eighteen years between the U.S. Coast Guard interview and Mixter's interview in 1993?

It is the job of a captain to gather information and make decisions based on real-time information. Cooper had been at the helm of a Great Lakes ship for ten years and had been sailing for nearly thirty-five years. He, more than anyone else — and that includes amateur historians — would be in the position to know what was going on during the afternoon and evening of November 10, 1975. And his recall was based on recorded information — a complete radio transmission and transcript of the exchange — and not on mere memory. Indeed, the transcript is printed on a wall-size painting at the Valley Camp Museum in Sault Ste Marie for thousands of visitors across the country and world to read every year. In addition, there have been scores of books, pamphlets, scholarship, and tourist trinkets that have been written and made over the years. Now there is an entire cache of internet searches of the transmission and transcript. Cooper could easily have consulted these, reflected on the moment, and come to a different conclusion. But he didn't. Cooper died in 1993.

At 4:10 p.m., the Fitzgerald reported that its radar was not working. The radar was the most reliable equipment the Fitzgerald had for navigation. Incredibly, both of the ship's radars were not working even though they were on different circuits for the purposes of redundancy. The Fitzgerald would now have to rely entirely on the Anderson for radar positioning.

It was also around this time that McSorley asked for "navigational assistance"; in other words, conditions were not improving. Anderson's first mate, Morgan Clark, was back on watch (the second mate had assumed watch after noon) and quickly obliged. But by then the Fitzgerald had already come within striking distance of Six Fathom Shoal. For McSorley, it was too little, too late. For Clark, it was "told you so."

At 7:10 p.m., the Anderson made final contact with the Fitzgerald. The last words exchanged by First Mate Clark and McSorley would live in infamy in the annals of American shipwreck folklore. Not even the most infamous of shipwrecks, the *Titanic*, had a more memorable sequence at the end of its life.

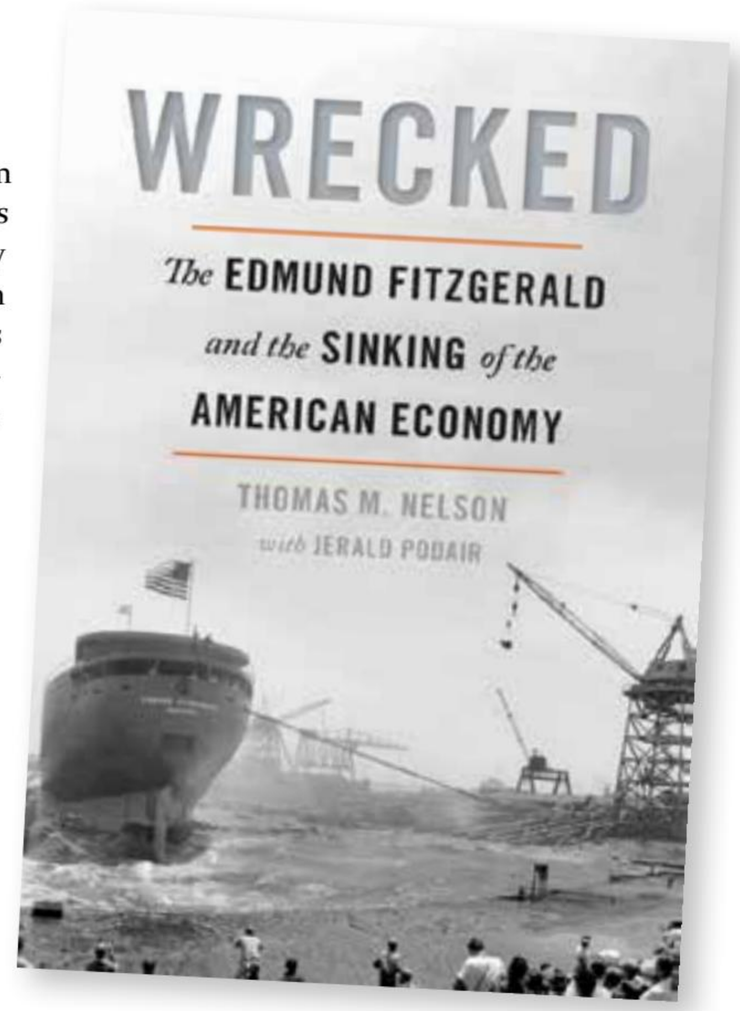
ANDERSON: Fitzgerald, this is the Anderson. Have you checked down?
FITZGERALD: Yes we have.

ANDERSON: Fitzgerald, we are about 10 miles behind you, and gaining about 1 1/2 miles per hour. Fitzgerald, there is a target 19 miles ahead of us. So the target would be 9 miles on ahead of you.
FITZGERALD: Well, am I going to clear?

ANDERSON: Yes. He is going to pass to the west of you.
FITZGERALD: Well, fine.

ANDERSON: By the way, Fitzgerald, how are you making out with your problem?
FITZGERALD: We are holding our own.

ANDERSON: Okay, fine. I'll be talking to you later.



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The transcript suggests that McSorley was totally oblivious of the ship's condition, although in McSorley's defense, he wouldn't have been able to tell if the waves were getting larger or he was just getting lower into the water. Said Cooper: "He gave no indication that he was worried or that he had a problem or there was something he couldn't cope with. There was no excitement whatsoever. This was a problem, but it was under control. This is what you would assume from the way he talked, that there was no problem."

Roy Anderson, second mate of the Anderson concurred: "I was told that he was not in any standing danger. He was not having any problems, and I believe if he was, that he was to call me on that." In the Coast Guard report, Cooper says, "I firmly believe that he had a damaged ship and didn't know how damaged she was." When McSorley chose not to go "right up on the beach in Caribou" it told Cooper that he was unaware of the ship's true condition. And Cooper was positive about that conclusion. Rare as it may be, "he would have put [the boat] on the beach. I am sure of it," Cooper said.

It is not clear if Cooper's assessment was made retrospectively or if he believed it at the time. If the latter, it begs the question, Why didn't Cooper warn McSorley? Was it because "a captain doesn't tell another how to sail their ship?" First Mate Morgan Clark could just make out what he believed were the lights of the Fitzgerald. Flickering. On and off. On and off. On and off. And then off.

Clark took a breath, rubbed his eyes, and strained to find the lights again. It was like he was trying to will them back on. He could now see the lights of the *Avafors*. The Fitzgerald had been in between the Anderson and the *Avafors*. If he could see the *Avafors*' lights, he should have been able to see the Fitzgerald. But he didn't.

She was gone. MT

The Old Miami

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FOUL MOUTH W/ MIKE BUSH EVERYBODY GOES CRAZY ONCE ALBUM RELEASE PARTY
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FEAT. LIVE PERFORMANCES BY ISAAC CASTOR/FATT FATHER/JP FROM THE HP/ FATBOI SHARIF/ICKY REELS/CREAM OF BEATS/JON CONNOR/PAHLAVI/KAIN COLE
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Sun 11/16
DETROIT LIONS VS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (AWAY)
WATCH THE GAME ON OUR BIG SCREENS!
8:20PM KICKOFF
MILLER LITE & CROWN ROYAL SPECIALS

Mon 11/17
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Fri 11/21
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VISIT US FOR $6 BOOZY CIDERS
ANGIE HARTLEY/THE SWEET SPOT/ WINESTONED COWBOYS
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Sat 11/22
THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS/THE WRITE UPS/PLAN III
(DIXIELAND/BLUEGRASS/SKA/PUNK)
DOORS@9PM/$5COVER

Sun 11/23
DETROIT LIONS VS NEW YORK GIANTS (HOME)
WATCH THE GAME ON OUR BIG SCREENS!
1:00PM KICKOFF
MILLER LITE & CROWN ROYAL SPECIALS

Mon 11/24
FREE POOL ALL DAY

Wed 11/26
THANKSGIVING EVE PARTY
DJ SKEEZ & FRIENDS
(HIP-HOP/SOUL/FUNK)
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Thurs 11/27
EXTENDED THANKSGIVING HOURS: 8AM-2AM
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11/28 AREA 313 (house/techno)
11/29 The Return of the Master Blaster: DJ jah Lion
12/05 Brother Wolf/TBA
12/06 Vultures of Culture/I hate Mars/ Mad Vandals
12/13 Charlie Patrick Band / The Gashounds/DUDE
12/20 DIVAS vs DIVAS (monthly dance party)
12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE: OPEN NOON-MIDNITE
12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY: OPEN NOON-2am
12/31 NYE: DIVAS vs DIVAS - OPEN UNTIL 4am
01/01 NEW YEAR'S DAY: OPEN NOON-2am

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WHAT'S GOING ON

A Drag Queen Christmas

A fabulous kick off the holiday season with sparkle, sass, and show-stopping performances. This glitzy, adults-only extravaganza bills itself as the longest-running drag tour in America and features fan-favorite queens from *RuPaul's Drag Race* serving up holiday classics, outrageous comedy, and over-the-top costumes in a night that's equal parts festive and fierce. Whether you're a die-hard *Drag Race* fan or just looking for a hilarious night out, this show is the perfect way to sleigh, er, slay.

Starts at 7:30 p.m on Wednesday, Nov. 12; Fisher Theatre, 3011 W Grand Blvd., Detroit; broadwayindetroit.com. Tickets are $51.02.

Cadillac Square Holiday Market

Downtown Detroit transforms into a winter wonderland with features dozens of local artisans and small businesses offering handmade gifts, art, jewelry, apparel, and seasonal treats — all nestled among twinkling lights and cozy warming stations. Visitors can sip hot cocoa, dine and drink from food trucks and pop-up bars, snap photos of the giant Christmas tree in nearby Campus Martius Park, and enjoy festive music and family-friendly fun.

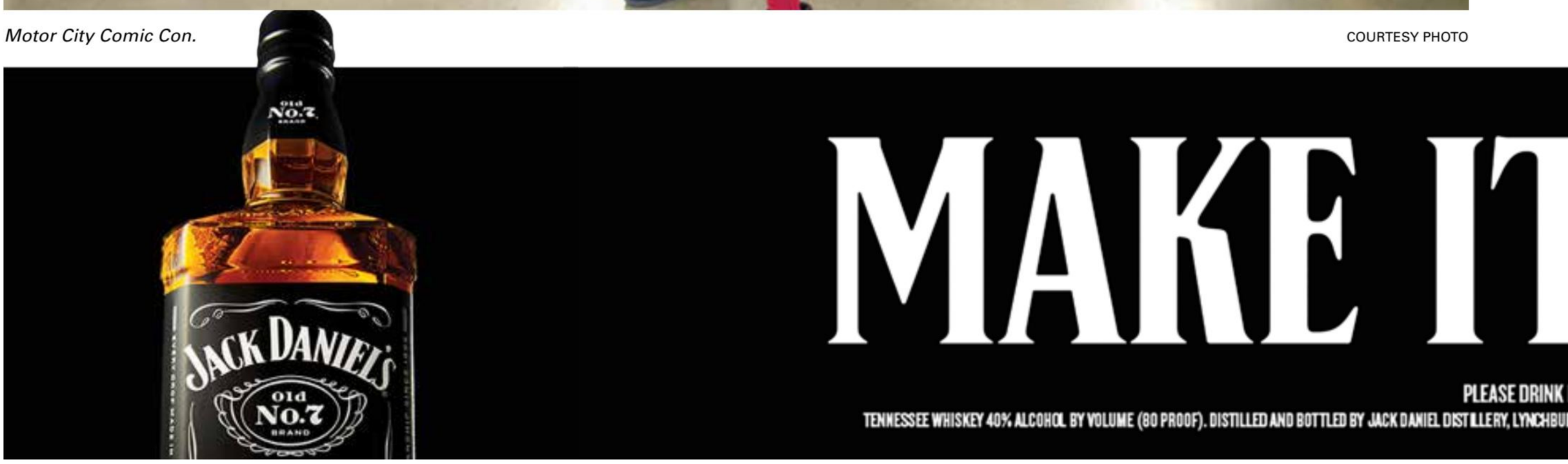
From Nov. 12-Jan. 4 in Cadillac Square; downtowndetroit.org. No cover.

Motor City Comic Con

Michigan's largest and longest-running pop culture convention has brought together fans, celebrities, artists, and creators for a weekend celebrating comics, film, TV, and fandom since 1989. The fall show features an exciting celebrity lineup including *Twilight* stars Kellan Lutz, Ashley Greene, Jackson Rathbone, and Peter Facinelli — who will also host exclusive Q&A panels and screenings of the 2008 *Twilight* film at Emagine Novi. Other celeb appearances indlude Hamish Linklater, Zach Gilford, Catherine Bell, and many more. Attendees can also enjoy panels, cosplay contests, photo ops, autograph sessions, gaming tournaments, Artist Alley, and family-friendly fun in the Kids' Den. With after-hours parties, themed exhibits, and special events like Slime Time with Ghostbusters, MC3 offers something for every fan.

From Friday, Nov. 14-Sunday, Nov. 16; Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi; motorcitycomic-con.com. Tickets are $35-$275.

Motor City Comic Con. COURTESY PHOTO



Detroit's 22nd Annual Tree Lighting

The holiday season is here. Downtown Detroit sparkles once again with its annual Christmas tree lighting, when a 62-foot Michigan-grown Norway spruce will be illuminated amid an evening of music, magic, and plenty of holiday spirit. The celebration features performances by multiplatinum country artist BRELAND, pop singer Natalie Jane, and Olympic-level ice skaters Polina Edmunds, Emmanuel Savary, Khloe Felton, and local skating talents. Visitors can enjoy giveaways, holiday shopping, and more than a million twinkling lights throughout downtown. The festivities continue Saturday with the grand opening of The Rink at Campus Martius Park. While admission is free, organizer the Downtown Detroit Partnership encourages guests to bring a pair of new gloves to benefit Mittens for Detroit, a local nonprofit that helps keep local children and adults in need warm this winter.

From 4-9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21; Campus Martius Park, 800 Woodward Ave., Detroit; downtowndetroit.org. No cover.

A Night of George Harrison — A Schvitz Ballroom Experience

Detroit health club The Schvitz is celebrating the music and spirit of George Harrison with a screening of Harrison's legendary *The Concert for Bangladesh* film, followed by a live performance at 8 p.m. featuring Detroit musicians performing songs from the concert and across Harrison's iconic catalog. Guests can enjoy à la carte dining during the film and optional access to The Schvitz's historic saunas (6–10 p.m.) for an additional fee. Proceeds benefit Thrive, supporting meal programs for schoolchildren in Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Film starts at 6 p.m., concert begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22; The Schvitz Health Club, 8295 Oakland Ave., Detroit; schvitzdetroit.com. Tickets are $25 for the concert, or $60 for the concert and a steam. MT

Detroit's 22nd Annual Tree Lighting. DOWNTOWN DETROIT PARTNERSHIP

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- STROLLING APPETIZERS
- AFTERGLOW BALLROOM DANCE PARTY
- \+ MORE!

WHAT'S GOING ON CONT'D

Select events happening in metro Detroit this week. Be sure to check venue websites before all events for the latest information. Add your event to our online calendar: metrotimes.com/AddEvent.

MUSIC

Wednesday Nov 12

Live/Concert

3Quency with Soulidified - Bandemonium Tour 2025 7 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Blackadelic Musical Nexus: A Tribute to Pedro Bell 2-5 pm; Huntington Place, 1 Washington Blvd, Detroit; Free.

Boney James - Slow Burn Tour 8 pm; Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit;

CLASSIC LOUNGE SOUNDS w/ KESHTKAR & CO. second Wednesday of every month, 8-11 pm; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

Eric Johanson 8 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Loathe: North American Tour 2025 7 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Magic Bag Presents: Boyce Avenue - USA 2025 Tour 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Ravagers wsg The Rat Pack + The Custodians 7 pm; Small's, 10339 Conant St., Hamtramck;

Saving Vice, The Failsafe, Yayo, Deadwitxh, Influence, Heavy Lies the Crown 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

DJ/Dance

Planet Funk 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

The Living Tombstone 7 pm; Cathedral Theatre at the Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St., Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/ Open Mic

Hump Day Karaoke & Music Trivia 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Thursday Nov 13

Live/Concert

Bktherula 7 pm; The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Black Violin 8 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts, 12 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac;

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

Grammy-Nominated Black Violin: Full Circle Tour — Nov. 13 at the Flagstar Strand Theatre 8 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre For The Performing of Arts, 12 North Saginaw Street, Pontiac; $65.

Ska't Ya Covered, The Warped Tourists, Jackson and the Poolsharks 7 pm; The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

The Dirty Nil, War On Women, Chastity 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

The Mars Volta 7 pm; Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak;

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Curated Cool 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic

Continuing This Week Karaoke/ Open Mic

Drag Queen Karaoke 8 pm-2 am; Woodward Avenue Brewers, 22646 Woodward Ave., Ferndale; no cover.

Elixer: DJs John Ryan and GEO 8 pm-midnight; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; No cover.

Friday Nov 14

Live/Concert

AVERY ANNA - LET GO LETTERS TOUR 7 pm; District 142, 142 Maple St., Wyandotte;

Ben Folds & A Piano 8-9:30 pm; FIM Capitol Theatre, 140 E 2nd Street, Flint; $60.80 / $44.20 for Genesee County residents.

Forever Seger 8 pm; Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren; $35-$72.

Jake Minch 6 pm; Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac;

JMSN 7 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers 7 pm; The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Magic Bag Presents: Start Making Sense: A Talking Heads Tribute 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Mark William Lewis 7 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

MINUS THE BEAR - Menos El Oso 20th Anniversary Tour 7 pm; Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Retro Rewind Dance Party! 8 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

Saddle Up Country Dance Party! 8 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

The Nightmare - Detroit's only Alice Cooper Tribute Show, Ted Nugent Tribute - TNT 7:30 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

Tye Tribbett 7 pm; Fisher Theatre - Detroit, 3011 West Grand & Fisher, Detroit;

WYCD Presents: Chase Matthew - Holdin' It Down Tour 2025 7 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Ann Arbor Ecstatic Dance second Friday of every month, 7:30-10:30 pm; Ringstar Studio, 3907 Varsity Dr, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108, Ann Arbor; $25-40 ($5 discount for cash).

Lotus 8 pm; Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Open Air Fridays 4-10 pm; Woodbridge Pub, 5169 Trumbull St., Detroit; 0.

Saturday Nov 15

Live/Concert

* The Music of Led Zeppelin * With Special Guest Detroit Trouble * 7-11 pm; Diesel Concert Lounge, 33151 23 Mile Road, Chesterfield; 15.00.

80s vs 90s Party Tour Concert, presented by DJ JEWELS BABY and SMOKE JONES 7 pm-midnight; Marygrove Theater, 8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit; $28 - $40.

Anne Wilson 7:30 pm; Fisher Theatre - Detroit, 3011 West Grand & Fisher, Detroit;

Billy Joel & Stevie Nicks 7 pm; Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit; $59.50-$349.50.

Bring It Back 2010's 9 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

Fit for a King w/ Make Them Suffer 6 pm; Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak;

Flashback Bash 8:30-11:30 pm; Cadieux Café, 4300 Cadieux Rd., Detroit; 10.

Jazz at the Warehouse 6:30-9:30 pm; The Warehouse at River's Edge, 125 S. Main Street, #700, Milford; 15.00.

Mac Saturn 7 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Magic Bag Presents: MEGA 80s - The Ultimate Retro Party! 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Pajama Line Dance Party! 8 pm; Diamondback Music Hall, 49345 S. Interstate 94 Service Dr., Belleville;

Postcard Nowhere In-Store Concert 7-11 pm; Reware Vintage, 2965 12 Mile Road, Suite 200, Berkley; $10-15 or PWYC.

Psychedelic Porn Crumpets 7 pm; Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

The Rough & Tumble w/opener John Finan & Sharon Tse at MAMA's Coffeehouse 7:30 pm; $18-$20.

The Rough & Tumble w/opener John Finan & Sharon Tse at MAMA's Coffeehouse 7:30 pm; MAMA's Coffeehouse at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills; $18-$20.

Shiner 6:30 pm; Small's, 10339 Conant St., Hamtramck;

Sons of Legion 7 pm; The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

TENNESSEE WHISKEY - A Tribute to Chris Stapleton & ULTIMATE ERIC CHURCH EXPERIENCE 7 pm; District 142, 142 Maple St., Wyandotte;

The Academy Is... - Almost Here. 20th Anniversary Tour 7 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Ulcerate, Spirit Possession 7 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Wannabe: A Spice Girls Tribute 8 pm; Emerald Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens;

Wishbone Ash 7:30 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

DJ/Dance

Saturday Grind 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Saturday Grind 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Sunday Nov 16

Live/Concert

Detroit Medical Orchestra - "Voyage", Feat. Shostakovich, Kabalevsky, and Tchaikovsky 3:30-5:30 pm; Wayne State University Community Arts Auditorium, 451 Reuther Mall, Detroit; Always Free, Open to the Public, Suggested Donation $10.

Grammy-Nominated Liverpool Legends LIVE — Nov. 16 at the Strand Theatre 7 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre For The Performing of Arts, 12 North Saginaw Street, Pontiac; $54.

Liverpool Legends "The Complete Beatles Experience!" 7-9 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts, 12 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac; $45-$85.

Loni B & Friends: feat Tayy Diarr, BigWestt, Dej Loaf, Kash Doll 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Louise Harrison Presents Liverpool Legends - Beatles Experience! 7 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts, 12 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac;

Musical Legacies 4-6 pm; Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe; $30 at the door, $25 in advance, $10 for students.

Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings 5-8 pm; Zal Gaz Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor; No Cover (cash tipjar for the band).

Public Works 7 pm; Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac;

Southern Fires presents Jam Sessions ft. Dnise Jonson Band Hosted by Lucretia Sain 6-9 pm; Southern Fires, 575 Bellevue, Detroit, MI; Free.

Wednesday 7 pm; Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings 5-8 pm; Zal Gaz Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor; No Cover (cash tipjar for the band).

Southern Fires presents Jam Sessions ft. Dnise Jonson Band Hosted by Lucretia Sain 6-9 pm; Southern Fires, 575 Bellevue, Detroit, MI; Free.

DJ/Dance

SPKR BRNCH 11 am-3 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic
Continuing This Week Karaoke/ Open Mic

Sunday Karaoke in the Lounge 5-9 pm; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

Sunday Service Karaoke Hosted by Sister DJ Larry 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Sunday Service Karaoke | DJ Larry noon-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Monday Nov 17

Live/Concert

Magic Bag Presents: The English Beat 7:30 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Sky Covington's Preservation of Jazz Monday Night Music Series, "Tributes" at the Aretha's Jazz Cafe Hosted by Comedian Mike Bonner 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35.

The Tribute to the Detroit Queens of Jazz ft. Kymberli Wright Juanita Black Sky Covington One Single Rose Pamela Wise Harrison Gayelynn Mckinney Lady Vonne & Luara Simon 7:30-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $35.

DJ/Dance

Adult Skate Night 8:30-11 pm; Lexus Velodrome, 601 Mack Ave., Detroit; $5.

Tuesday Nov 18

Live/Concert

Cash Langdon, Legume, Plushies, Dryfruit 7 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Sean Blackman's In Transit 7-10 pm; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Sean Blackman's In Transit 7-10 pm; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Karaoke/Open Mic
Continuing This Week Karaoke/ Open Mic

Open Mic : Art in a Fly Space 7-10 pm; Detroit Shipping Company, 474 Peterboro St., Detroit; no cover.

Tuesday Karaoke in the Lounge 8 pm-midnight; Bowlero Lanes & Lounge, 4209 Coolidge Hwy., Royal Oak; 0.

VIP Tuesday Night Karaoke 9 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Wednesday Nov 19

Live/Concert

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Cubist Agenda 8 pm-midnight; First Place Lounge, 16921 Harper Ave, Detroit; No Cover.

Cyrus Chestnut Trio 6-10:30 pm; The Blue LLama Jazz Club, 314 S. Main St., Ann Arbor; $90 OR $50.

The Function with DJ Dez Andres 9 pm-2 am; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; no cover.

Mammoth - The End Tour 6 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

RICHIE KOTZEN AND JOHN 5 7 pm; District 142, 142 Maple St., Wyandotte;

Sevendust w/ Cory Marks 7 pm; Detroit Masonic Temple Library, 500 Temple St, Detroit;

Tamar Braxton 8 pm; Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit;

Today Is the Day, Lo-Pan, Cullossus 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

UMI- People Stories World Tour 7 pm; Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

DJ/Dance

Planet Funk 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic
Continuing This Week Karaoke/ Open Mic

Hump Day Karaoke & Music Trivia 8 pm-1 am; Pronto! Royal Oak, 608 S. Washington, Royal Oak; No Cover.

Thursday Nov 20

Live/Concert

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

Avatar - In The Airwaves - USA 2025 , 6:30 pm; The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

BabyChiefDoit , 7 pm; The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit;

Dueling Pianos: An Interactive Entertainment Experience 8 pm-midnight; AXIS Lounge, 1777 3rd St., Detroit;

Erykah Badu - Suite Rental Packages , 8 pm; Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

eryKah Badu Mama's Gun '25: The Return of Automatic Slim Tour , 8 pm; Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit;

FLAW , 7:30 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

Foxxy Gwensday Wednesday Presents Detroit Jazz Factory ft. De'Anna Victoria , 7-10 pm; Aretha's Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison St., Detroit; $20.

Jose Gonzalez , 7 pm; Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak;

MATTHEW GOOD AND HIS BAND with I MOTHER EARTH , 8 pm; Caesars Palace Windsor - Augustus Ballroom, 377 E. Riverside Dr., Windsor;

DJ/Dance

Curated Cool 7-10 pm; Spkr Box, 200 Grand River, Detroit;

Karaoke/Open Mic
Continuing This Week Karaoke/ Open Mic

Drag Queen Karaoke 8 pm-2 am; Woodward Avenue Brewers, 22646 Woodward Ave., Ferndale; no cover.

Elixer: DJs John Ryan and GEO 8 pm-midnight; Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St., Detroit; No cover.

Friday Nov 21

Live/Concert

Alvin Waddles & Friends VII A Study in Blue with Rackham Choir 7-9:30 pm; Groves High School, 20500 W. 13 Mile, Birmingham; Tickets: VIP Seating $50, GA Seating $25, Students $15.

American Idol Winner Iam Tongi — Nov. 21 Live at the Flagstar Strand Theatre 8 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre For The Performing of Arts, 12 North Saginaw Street, Pontiac; $40.

Dear Darkness, Low Exposure, Mayzele @ Reware Vintage ; Reware Vintage, 2965 12 Mile Road, Suite 200, Berkley; $10.

Entheos, Fallujah, The Zenith Passage, Tracheotomy 6 pm; Sanctuary Detroit, 2932 Caniff St., Hamtramck;

Evil Woman - The American ELO 8 pm; Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Rd., Warren; $35-$69.

Fire Lake - Bob Seger Tribute, Detroit Breakdown - The J Geils Band Tribute 8 pm; The Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Rd., Westland;

Iam Tongi 8 pm; Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts, 12 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac;

Jeffrey Osborne 8 pm; Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit;

Jim Bizer 7 pm; The Hawk Theatre, 29995 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills; $20 in advance, $25 at the door.

KASHMIR featuring Jean Violet - The Spirit of Led Zeppelin Live 8 pm; Emerald Theatre, 31 N. Walnut St., Mount Clemens;

Magic Bag Presents: Will Hoge 7 pm; Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Night Cap | At-Will Band 7:15-10 pm; The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms; $15-$40.

Nogu Svelo Brings Punk Mayhem 7 pm; The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale;

Saturdays At Your Place with Prince Daddy & The Hyena, TRSH, Carly Cosgrove, Riley!, Thoughts On Bowling and Kerosene Heights 5 pm; Pike Room, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. MT

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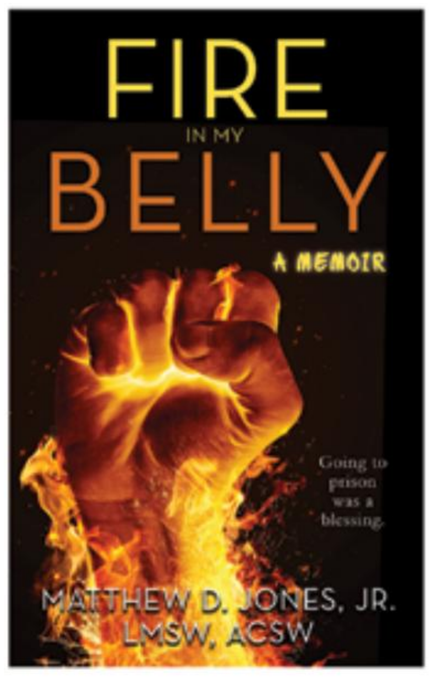
In *Fire In My Belly*, Matthew Jones takes readers on an unflinching journey of self-discovery. Wrongly caught up in a crime that changed his life forever, Jones refused to let prison define him.



Instead, it ignited a hunger to
- Expand his mind through books
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Emma Stone plays a stone-cold kidnapped CEO in Bugonia. FOCUS FEATURES

Film

A paranoid masterpiece for the post-truth era

By Jared Rasic, Last Word Features

Bugonia

Rated: R

Runtime: 118 minutes

If you're a diehard film fan like myself, you more than likely feel some way about the films of Greek auteur Yorgos Lanthimos. Whether you prefer his darker, edgier earlier work like *Dogtooth* and *Alps*, or of his more whimsical and experimental later films like *The Lobster* and *The Favourite* — or maybe you think he's an overrated and pretentious hack — regardless, most cinephiles feel strongly one way or another about his work.

I'm a fan, while still aware that, as he becomes more and more renowned on the world stage as a filmmaker, he's also susceptible to leaning into his worst impulses as a writer and director. *Dogtooth* is a good example, where Lanthimos tonally balances a brutal and violent fable with a darkly funny comedy and makes it work. With *The Lobster*, he flawlessly constructs an absurdist comedy from the ruins of a deeply sad rumination on loneliness and loss.

But once he became an Academy Award darling with the hilariously depressing *The Favourite*, I think Lanthimos decided he could get away with anything.

As much as I enjoyed *Poor Things* and *Kinds of Kindness* as visual and auditory theme park rides, I'm not sure either film exceeded the sum of its parts or binded into something with the same cohesion as his earlier work. I love that Lanthimos is still following the same weird muse instead of using his Hollywood cache to make a superhero movie or a *Jurassic Park* (although now that I say that out loud, I want it), but his storytelling isn't as waterproof as it used to be.

With his new film, *Bugonia*, Lanthimos turns his lens on modern times in a way that not only feels astonishingly of the moment, but prescient for generations to come. We follow Teddy Gatz (a greasy, live-wire act from Jesse Plemons), a conspiracy-obsessed warehouse worker who, along with his intellectually disabled cousin, Don (real-life autistic actor Aidan Delbis) kidnaps Michelle Fuller (Emma Stone, once again proving there's no upper limit to her range), who is a CEO of a large pharmaceutical company that Teddy believes to be the forerunner of an invasive alien species.

Much of the fun of the film comes from watching Plemons and Stone square off in a battle of wits where we aren't sure whether to root for the possible alien or rage-fueled kidnapper. Working from a script by Will (*The Menu*) Tracy means there isn't a ton of room for subtlety. So Lanthimos leans into the absurdism by constantly having the audience shift their allegiance between Teddy and Don and their scheme to "save the world" to Michelle, who is simultaneously the victim of a horrible crime and a completely heartless and unlikable CEO. Hitting theaters as we approach the first anniversary of Luigi Mangione's assassination of the United-Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson, this is some pretty fearless screenwriting.

Because Plemons and Stone are ultimately such charismatic and layered performers, they manage to play deeply sympathetic notes across characters whose flaws have flaws. Plemons instills Teddy with such wide-eyed certainty that he's the only person who's right in a post-truth landscape that he feels pulled straight from a flagged subreddit. He's so desperate, and as he says, starving for answers, that he makes a meal of the far left, the alt-right, and anything in between that will give some meaning to the suffering his family has gone through.

Stone's Michelle is cold, clinical, and removed enough that it's easy for us to fall prey to Teddy's belief that she's an andromedan spy sent to destroy the human race on the night of the lunar eclipse, while also fully allowing for the possibility for Teddy to be completely mentally ill.

That is the biggest strength of *Bugonia*. Throughout its entire runtime, Lanthimos kept me on a razor's edge about deciding whether I wanted Teddy to be insane or the only human who knows the truth. Do we want the paranoid conspiracy theorists to be right or would that mean the world is beyond the scope of repair?

Bugonia is just as darkly, absurdly funny as the best of Lanthimos's earlier work, while feeling like a step forward for him as a technician and artist. Shot on stunningly gorgeous 35mm film, where the grain gives every single frame a swoon-worthy tactile immediacy, Lanthimos and brilliant Irish cinematographer Robbie Ryan have crafted *Bugonia* into their most elegantly composed work to date. Even if I wasn't in love with all of Tracy's choices as a writer, I respect that he created something that feels so sickeningly contemporary.

If you're not on the same weirdo wavelength as Lanthimos and his team of madcap geniuses, *Bugonia* certainly won't make you a fan. But if you felt he was losing the thread of what made him an interesting storyteller in the first place, this movie might bring you back.

It's one hell of a weird movie that won't necessarily move you emotionally like *The Lobster*, but will definitely send you out into the world questioning your place in the universe and whether your co-worker is a lizard person. And, really, isn't that what a Yorgos Lanthimos movie is supposed to do?

Grade: B+ MT

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This Colorado-born brand has built a cult following among cannabis enthusiasts. STEVE NEAVLING

The Straight Dope

I spent a year smoking this premium weed. Was it worth the high price?

By Steve Neavling

If you spend any time around cannabis enthusiasts in Michigan, you've probably heard of 710 Labs.

The Colorado-born company has built a cult following for its terp-heavy live rosin, a solventless concentrate known for its flavor, potency, and purity.

But its flower, which is grown to the same obsessive standards, is often overlooked. The company says it only uses top colas — the biggest, most resin-coated buds on each plant — and hand trims the cured flower.

710 Labs isn't modest about its flower, calling it "the most opulent, flavor-dense nugs in the world."

Founded by Brad Melshenker in Boulder, Col., in 2009, 710 Labs got its name from concentrate culture: Flip "710" upside down and it spells "OIL." The brand later relocated to Los Angeles and now operates in California, Colorado, Michigan, Florida, and New Jersey.

In late 2022, 710 Labs launched in Michigan and quickly grew a strong following, especially for its large library of unique, flavorful strains. It also caught criticism for its high prices, which makes it out of reach for many consumers.

I wanted to find out if the flower lived up to the brand's hype. Over the past year, I embarked on a mission to try as many 710 Labs flower strains as I could. What I found was a mix of unique, pungent weed and also some duds that I could find at half the price.

At $45 to $60 an eighth, this wasn't a cheap experiment. I bought 22 jars of 710 Labs flower and more than a handful of one-gram prerolls — the company calls them "doinks"— which run about $15 to $18 apiece, roughly double the price of most high-quality prerolls. If you really want to go all in, 710 also sells two-gram doinks made with 1.5 grams of flower and a half-gram of live rosin for around $50. It's a splurge, but a good choice for special occasions. On my birthday last month, I enjoyed an infused doink with Cherry Zest #4 flower and Strawberry Guava #9 rosin, and it burned for more than an hour.

What's fun about the doinks is the tip. Instead of a cardboard filter, it's a gluten-free rotini noodle, which 710 says helps with airflow and keeps the joint cooler while smoking.

I usually buy 710 Labs at Nature's Remedy in Ferndale, which consistently has metro Detroit's largest selection. My curiosity was partly piqued by the company's polarizing reputation. People either swear by it or think it's overpriced and inconsistent.

My first impression: The buds were generally large, frosty with trichomes, and flavorful. They were dense but fluffy, well-cured, and almost always smooth. Because 710 focuses more on terpenes than THC, the highs tend to be more nuanced and dialed in. Most flower tests between 16% and 22% THC.

With that said, quality varied widely from strain to strain. The best ones were some of the finest I've smoked this year. Others were average — not bad, but not worth top-shelf prices. Out of 22 eighths, eight fell into that middle range. Still, the gems made the adventure worth it, at least for me.

Would I recommend 710 Labs flower? Yes, but only if you have the money to spend. Do your homework on each strain before buying. Reddit is a good place to start.

If you're watching your budget but still want premium quality, look for brands like The Hive, Hytek, Growing Pains, Exotic Matter, Premier Cannabis Farms, Favrd, Freshy Fine, Fractal, Tip Top Crop, Information Entropy, Mi Loud, and Michigrown. Their best flower is just as good as many of 710 Labs's premium buds, and it's often more potent.

The bottom line is, when 710 Labs hit, it really hits. The flavor, aroma, and craftsmanship are hard to beat. But inconsistency and price make it a luxury brand, not an everyday one. If you value terps over THC and don't mind paying for the experience, 710 Labs flower deserves a spot in your rotation. MT

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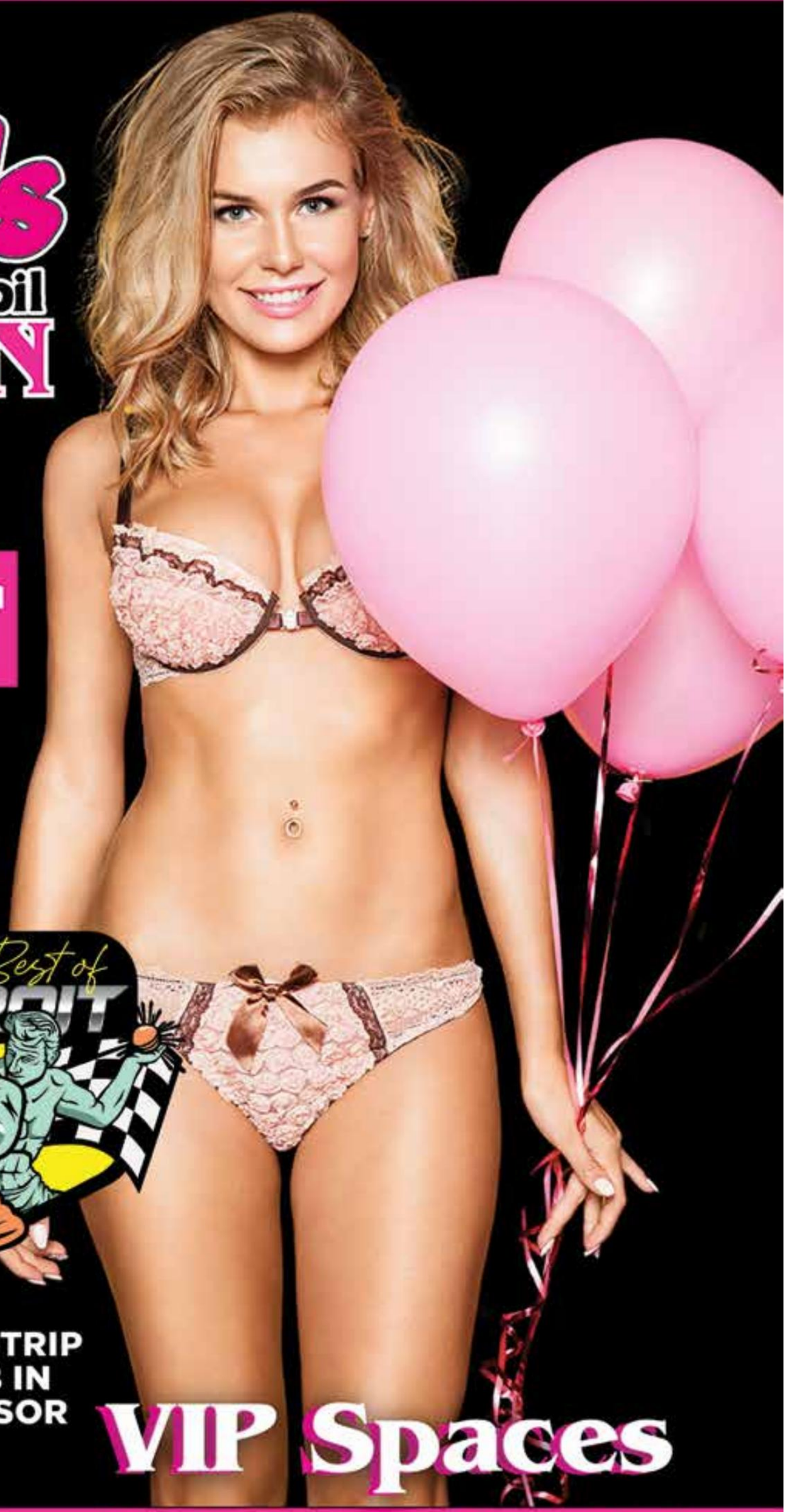

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CULTURE

Savage Love

Quickies

By Dan Savage

Q: *I'm a 34-year-old woman who has been with a man I really enjoy for three years. There are a few reasons I don't think we're going to last forever. Most importantly: I'm not planning to have kids. He knows that but he wants them. Do I need to cut it off or do I let it run its course?*

A: Allowing someone to live in hope is fine... *so long as there's hope*. Allowing someone to live in false hope by making vague statements that could be interpretated more than one way... that's selfish and manipulative. So, if what you mean by, "not planning," is, "never going to," you need to make that unambiguously clear to the man you're enjoying.

Q: *If a guy refers to his wife as his "wife" in quotation marks... what does that mean?*

A: It could mean she's his wife in name only... or it could mean he wants you to believe she's his wife in name only... but it doesn't mean his marriage is open or that this woman's "husband" can be trusted.

Q: *I am sexually active at 87. I can't find any gay men in Olympia, Washington, where I live. Where is a good place to start?*

A: Music mogul David Geffen was in his eighties when he met his husband David Armstrong on seekingarrangements.com ("the premier dating site for success-minded singles") two years ago. Geffen and Armstrong are now getting divorced. Armistead Maupin was in his seventies when he met his husband Christopher Turner on daddyhunt.com ("where you never have to lie about your age to meet other men") eleven years ago. Armistead and Christopher are still together.

Q: *I'm married to the woman I gave my virginity to. After decades together, we have decided to experience others to spread joy in this dark world. Is there a term for someone who is not a virgin, because they've had sex thousands of times, but they've only ever had sex with one person? If there isn't, can I propose "monogamy virgin"?*

A: A "monogamy virgin" sounds like someone who's had sex with tons of people but never made a monogamous commitment to anyone. So, your proposed term isn't going to work — and even if I could pull a better term to describe you out of my ass, years could go by before it came into wide use. And we need you out there spreading the joy *right now*, not ten years from now.

Q: *Cis 28-year-old female from somewhere in the desert. My question is this: Do you have to be attracted physically to someone to be in a BDSM relationship? Specifically, a Dom/sub relationship?*

A: Blindfolds are your friend!

P.S. A good blindfold might help you enjoy a BDSM play session with a Dom you aren't into physically, but a non-companionate relationship requires some spark of physical attraction. That said, lots of people wind up with partners they weren't physically attracted to at first because they had other things in common — and a shared interest in BDSM is an important commonality, one you might be able to build on.

Q: *Any clever tricks for avoiding Cialis side effects like headache/congestion?*

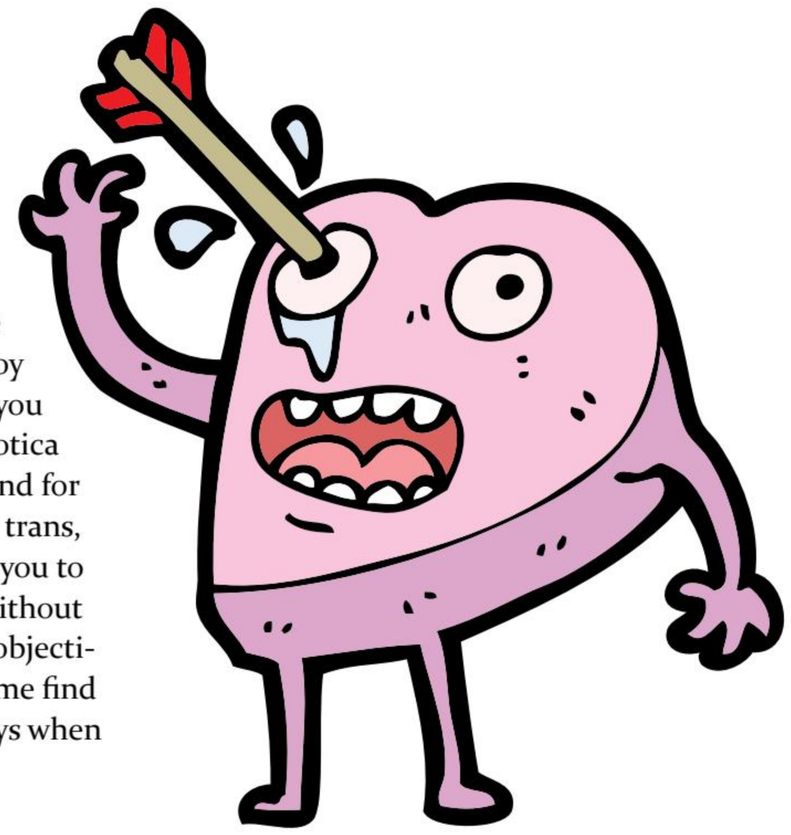
A: Flonase is your friend!

Q: *No question! Thank you!*

A: No answer? You're welcome?

Q: *Queer, non-binary AFAB person here. Why am I obsessed with m/m erotica? It's so fucking hot OMG.*

A: My first thought — the quick answer that popped into my mind — would get me in trouble if I were to share it. (And like a lot of initial thoughts, it might not be the right one!) So, I'll share my more considered second and third thoughts: If you're into men/males/AMAB persons, you might enjoy m/m erotica for the same reason so many cishet men enjoy w/w erotica, e.g. more of what you came for. Additionally, m/m erotica — which is mostly created by and for AFAB persons (women, cis and trans, binary and non, etc.) — allows you to enjoy male sexual aggression without feeling complicit in the sexual objectification of women. In short, some find it easier to enjoy boys being boys when boys are doing boys.



Q: *I'm a 40-year-old single woman ready to be a mother. I don't want to pay for jizz and the two friends I asked live abroad and don't want to make a kid they can't be present for. So, I posted on Feeld and now I'm drowning in free jizz! Men are literally lining up. Meeting a male life partner has been hard. Existentially and practically, what do you think about all this? The clock is ticking!*

A: "It's painful to pay for sperm after a life of fending it off," said Diana Adams, Esq., executive director of the Chosen Family Law Center. "But going with sperm off apps runs the risk in these conservative times of the donor being declared a dad who has parental rights. Only choose someone responsible and reliable enough to sign a Known Donor Agreement drafted by a lawyer in your state — that's only a few thousand dollars well-spent to protect you and your child."

Follow Diana Adams on Instagram @ DianaAdamsEsq.

Q: *I have a crush on a friend and I'm not sure they're interested in me. Do I say something and risk the awkwardness? Or is it not worth it?*

A: "If they're into you, you'll know. If they're not, you'll be confused."

That quote gets passed around a lot — I'm not sure who said it first, so don't know who to credit — but I don't this it's good advice. It may be true that confusing signals usually indicate disinterest, but you never know.

P.S. I recently ran into a guy I had a crush on when he was a waiter at one of my favorite restaurants. As it turns out, he had a crush on me. But I was giving off confusing signals (I didn't wanna creep on this pretty waiter, so I was reserved) and he was giving off confusing signals (he didn't wanna hit on a customer, so he was businesslike), and neither of us were willing to risk a moment's awkwardness. There wasn't a friendship at stake, I realize, just a hot waiter, but now I wish I'd done more than tip 30%.

Q: *Confession: I've been giving blowjobs to a friend's boyfriend. She's just a friend, not my best friend. I feel bad but don't want to stop. I wish there was some detail that made me feel better — I asked if their relationship is sexless (it's not), I asked if she gives him blowjobs (she does), I asked if they're open (they're not) — but he's got the most beautiful cock I've ever seen. Can I still think of myself as a good person? Does it make any difference that I'm gay and I might be meeting a need of my friend can't?*

A: Are you Good? No. Are you giving? Yes.

P.S. "But the dick was amazing" doesn't win you a "Get Out of Shitty Friend Jail Free" card.

Q: *Is there such a thing as a hetero leather daddy with no misogynistic tendencies?*

A: Is there such a thing as a homosexual leather daddy with no homophobic tendencies?

P.S. A lot of internalized homophobia gets externalized and purged when gay men engage in D/s sex play. But both men involved are victims of homophobia, and homophobic tropes are consciously invoked, exaggerated, and purged. I could see straight men into D/s sex not being as consciously aware of their misogyny and unconsciously reinforcing it through play rather than purging it. That said, there have to be some hetero leather daddies out there with no misogynistic tendencies. Just because you haven't met one yet doesn't mean they don't exist.

Q: *Which would you choose: a man in uniform or a man in a finely tailored suit?*

A: If I had to choose, I'd choose a man in uniform over a man in a suit

every single time.

Q: *Any secrets for dry mouth when it's time to give sloppy head?*

A: Keep some of those Del Monte fruit cups in the fridge — the kind with the alarmingly red cherries in them — and have a quick sip of the syrup before you begin.

Q: *Why are we obsessed with big things? Big tits, big dicks, big butts, big balls?*

A: The big things you cite are markers of fertility and/or the kind of primary and secondary sex characteristics that light up our reptile brains. We are not obsessed with big things generally — no one is into big earlobes, big kneecaps, big foreheads, etc. (I mean, big earlobes exist, as does Rule 34, which means there's probably someone out there jacking off to big earlobe porn right now. Still, my point stands.)

Q: *We enjoy sex in public places — we've done it in a hospital, a club, offices, hotel pool, highway overpass — but don't want to get caught by security cameras.*

A: No one looks at security camera footage unless a crime has been committed and reported — so, if you're careful not to commit crimes yourself (or any additional crimes) and don't have sex where other people are committing crimes, it's unlikely that anyone will review the security camera footage you're almost certainly been caught on already.

Q: *Are men worth marrying?*

A: I married my husband twice and would marry my boyfriend if I could, so you can count me as a yes.

Q: *Is a bulldyke topping gay men a kink?*

A: If you're jacking off to porn featuring bulldykes topping gay men and you're neither a bulldyke nor a gay man, you've might have a kink. But if you're a bulldyke who's topping a gay man... or a gay man being topped by a bulldyke... you're proof that the horseshoe theory doesn't just apply to politics: a person — two people — can be so queer they wind up having what looks like (but arguably isn't) straight sex.

Q: *I'm a 35-year-old cis het woman with vaginismus. I've only had one PIV partner. We made it work, but it was challenging and years ago. Since then, I've only been with one person, and he couldn't have PIV for religious reasons, so it wasn't an issue. I've met someone new and will need to broach the subject. Do you have any advice on how and when to talk about it? And any advice for treatment would also be great. I have dilators. I don't have resources for a sex therapist.*

A: "Dilators are a great start," said Dr. Rachel Gelman, a pelvic floor physical therapist and the founder of Pelvic Wellness. "But I strongly recommend consulting with a pelvic floor therapist. They can make sure you are using the dilators correctly, as well as teach you other exercises and use various treatment techniques to address any tension of the pelvic floor and surrounding muscles that contribute to vaginismus. They may also help with strategies to approach the conversation with this new partner, which ideally you want to have before you enter the bedroom. Certain conversations tend to be easier when you are both fully dressed."

Follow Dr. Rachel Gelman on Instagram @PelvicHealthSF.

Q: *Can we send you nudes?*

A: If you'd bothered to read the fine print at the bottom of my column, you would already know that readers are legally obligated to send me nudes.

Q: *I love using toys and always have. The last five years or so I have been trying my best to be as eco-minded as possible. This raises my question for you. Is there a way to properly dispose of old toys when they reach their expiration date? I have a handful of old toys and am not entirely sure how to safely dispose of them to keep them out of landfills.*

A: Million-dollar idea: Open a chain of sex toy cemeteries where eco-minded people who don't wanna see their beloved old sex toys wind up in landfills can come and bury them instead.

Q: *Someone asks you if you have HPV right before sex. What are you supposed to say?!? I went with: "Probably?"*

A: No notes! MT

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love!

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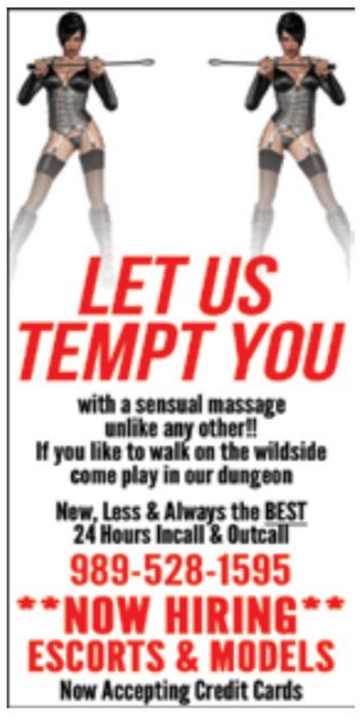
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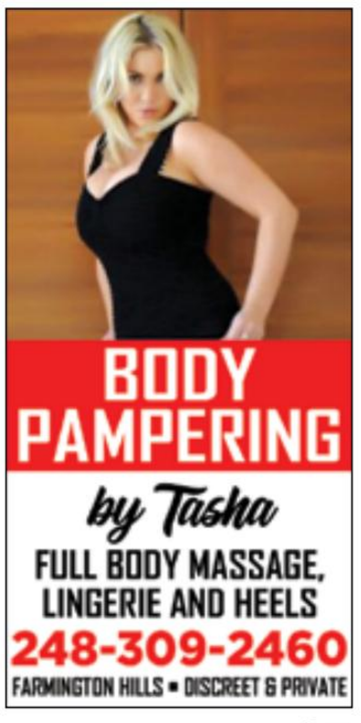
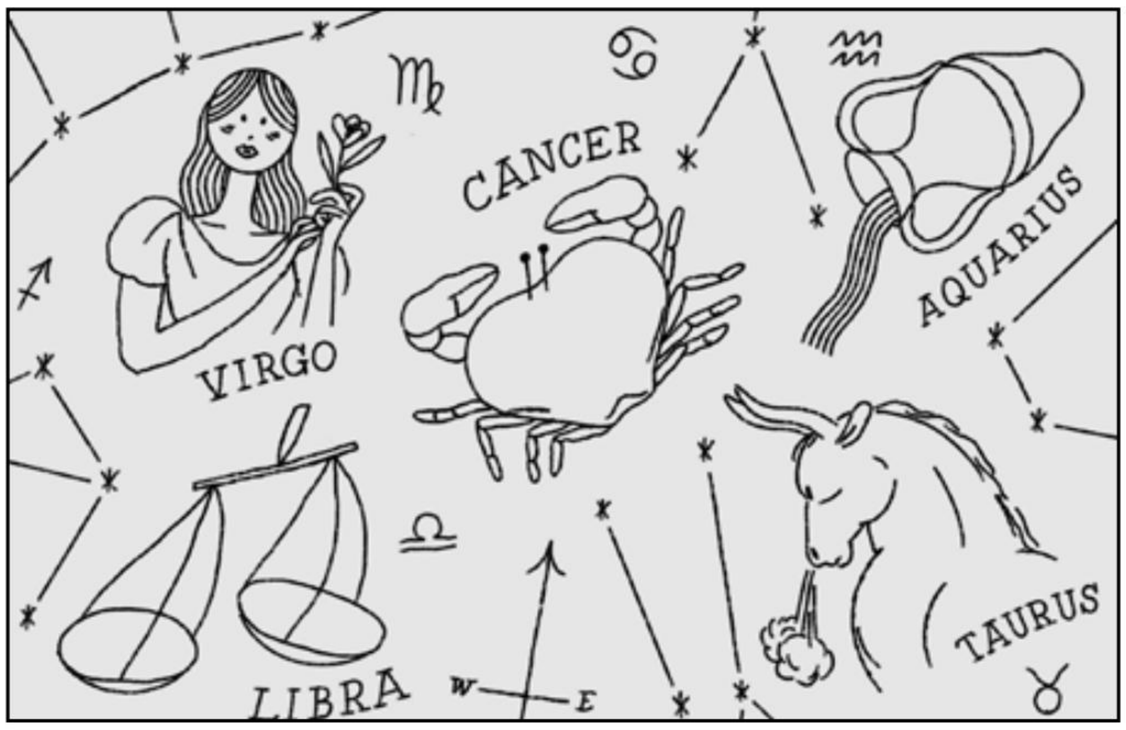


Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny



JAMES NOELLERT

ARIES: March 21 – April 19
The Akan concept of *Sankofa* is represented by a bird looking backward while moving forward. The message is "Go back and get it." You must retrieve wisdom from the past to move into the future. Forgetting where you came from doesn't liberate you; it orphans you. I encourage you to make *Sankofa* a prime meditation, Aries. The shape of your becoming must include the shape of your origin. You can't transcend what you haven't integrated. So look back, retrieve what you left behind, and bring it forward.

TAURUS: April 20 – May 20
The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to engage in STRATEGIC FORGETTING. It's the art of deliberately unlearning what you were taught about who you should be, what you should want, and how you should spend your precious life. Fact: Fanatical brand loyalty to yourself can be an act of self-sabotage. I suggest you fire yourself from your own expectations. Clock out from the job of being who you were yesterday. It's liberation time!

GEMINI: May 21 – June 20
We should all risk asking supposedly wrong questions. Doing so reminds us that truth and discovery often hide in the compost pile of our mistaken notions. A wrong question can help us shed tired assumptions, expose invisible taboos, and lure new insights out of hiding. By leaning into the awkward, we invite surprise, which may be a rich source of genuine learning. With that in mind, I invite you to ask the following: Why not? What if I fail spectacularly? What would I do if I weren't afraid of looking dumb? How can I make this weirder? What if the opposite were true? What if I said yes? What if I said no? What if this is all simpler than I'm making it? What if it's stranger than I can imagine?

CANCER: June 21 – July 22
Cancerian novelist Octavia Butler said her stories were fueled by two obsessions: "Where will we be going?" and "How will we get there?" One critic praised this approach, saying she paid "serious attention to the way human beings actually work together and against each other." Other critics praised her "clear-headed and brutally unsentimental" explorations of "far-reaching issues of race, sex, power." She was a gritty visionary whose imagination was expansive and attention to detail meticulous. Let's make her your inspirational role model. Your future self is now leaning toward you, whispering previews and hints about paths still half-formed. You're being invited to be both a dreamer and builder, both a seer and strategist. Where are you going, and how will you get there?

LEO: July 23 – August 22
The Tagalog language includes the word *kilig*. It refers to the butterfly-in-the-stomach flutter when something momentous, romantic, or cute happens. I suspect *kilig* will be a featured experience for you in the coming weeks—if you make room for it. Please don't fill up every minute with mundane tasks and relentless worrying. Meditate on the truth that you deserve an influx of such blessings and must expand your consciousness to welcome their full arrival.

VIRGO: August 23 – Sept. 22
Your liver performs countless functions, including storing vitamins, synthesizing proteins, regulating blood sugar, filtering 1.5 quarts of blood per minute, and detoxifying metabolic wastes. It can regenerate itself from as little as 25 percent of its original tissue. It's your internal resurrection machine: proof that some damage is reversible, and some second chances come built-in. Many cultures have regarded the liver not just as an organ, but as the seat of the soul and the source of passions. Some practice ritual purification ceremonies that honor the liver's pivotal role. In accordance with astrological omens, Virgo, I invite you to celebrate this central repository of your life energy. Regard it as an inspiring symbol of your ability to revitalize yourself.

LIBRA: Sept. 23 – Oct. 22
The pupils of your eyes aren't black. They are actually holes. Each pupil is an absence, a portal where light enters you and becomes sight. Do you understand how amazing this is? You have two voids in your face through which the world pours itself into your nervous system. These crucial features are literally made of nothing. The voidness is key to your love of life. Everything I just said reframes emptiness not as loss or deficiency, but as a *functioning joy.* Without the pupils' hollowness, there is no color, no shape, no sunrise, no art. Likewise in emotional life, our ability to be delighted depends on vulnerability. To feel wonder and curiosity is to let the world enter us, just as light enters the eye.

SCORPIO: Oct. 23 – Nov. 21:
Your dreams speak in images, not ideas. They bypass your rational defenses and tell the truth slantwise because the truth straight-on may be too bright to bear. The source of dreams, your unconscious, is fluent in a language that your waking mind may not be entirely adept in understanding: symbol, metaphor, and emotional logic. It tries to tell you things your conscious self refuses to hear. Are you listening? Or are you too busy being reasonable? The coming weeks will be a crucial time to tune in to messages from deep within you.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 – Dec. 21
The tour guide at the museum was describing the leisure habits of ancient Romans. "Each day's work was often completed by noon," he said. "For the remainder of the day, they indulged in amusement and pleasure. Over half of the calendar consisted of holidays." As I heard this cheerful news, my attention gravitated to you, Sagittarius. You probably can't permanently arrange your schedule to be like the Romans'. But you'll be wise to do so during the coming days. Do you dare to give yourself such abundant comfort and delight? Might you be bold enough to rebel against the daily drudgery to honor your soul's and body's cravings for relief and release?

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22 – Jan. 19
The Zulu greeting *Sawubona* means "I see you." Not just "hello," but "I acknowledge your existence, your dignity, and your humanity." The response is *Ngikhona*: "I am here." In this exchange, people receive a respectful appreciation of the fact that they contain deeper truths below the surface level of their personality. This is the opposite of the Western world's default state of mutual invisibility. What if you greeted everyone like this, Capricorn—with an intention to bestow honor and recognition? I recommend that you try this experiment. It will spur others to treat you even better than they already do.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
Bear with me while I propose an outlandish-sounding theory: that you have enough of everything. Not eventually, not after the next achievement, but right now: You have all you need. What if enoughness is not a quantity but a quality of attention? What if enoughness isn't a perk you have to earn but a treasure you simply claim? In this way of thinking, you consider the possibility that the finish line keeps moving because you keep moving it. And now you will decide to stop doing that. You resolve to believe that this breath, this moment, and this gloriously imperfect life are enough, and the voice telling you it's not enough is selling something you don't need.

PISCES: Feb.19 – March 20
The Inuit people have dozens of words for snow. The Scots have over 100 words for rain. Sanskrit is renowned for its detailed and nuanced vocabulary relating to love, tenderness, and spiritual bliss. According to some estimates, there are 96 different terms for various expressions of love, including the romantic and sensual kind, as well as compassion, friendship, devotion, and transcendence. I invite you to take an inventory of all the kinds of affection and care you experience. Now is an excellent phase to expand your understanding of these mysteries—and increase your capacity for giving and receiving them. MT

Homework: *What blessing would be most fun for you to bestow right now?*

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